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A HISTORY OF THE
POST-REFORMATION CATHOLIC MISSIONS
IN OXFORDSHIRE

A HISTORY OF THE POST-REFORMATION CATHOLIC MISSIONS IN OXFORDSHIRE

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE FAMILIES
CONNECTED WITH THEM

BY

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PROLOGUE

THE object of this little work, the outcome of several years of research, is to show to the present generation how the spark of the old Faith has been fostered in our county of Oxford during the last three centuries.

An effort has been made to trace the descent of the older Catholic Missions in the county from the latter days of Queen Elizabeth, when some of the more influential among the Catholic gentry were able to obtain sufficient protection from the Crown to allow them to keep a chaplain with some modified degree of safety.

During the Civil War the lists for 'Compounding' show how universal was the loyalty of Catholics to the Crown, for, without exception, every Catholic gentleman was written down 'Papist and Delinquent in arms.' The lists of 'Non-Jurors' show the remnant of the gentry still adhering to their religious profession, and, in times of straitened circumstances and renewed intolerance, struggling on to get their children educated abroad, the registers of every college and convent in Flanders and Northern France being filled with the names of the best English families.

The Catholic Emancipation Act, 1829, found things at their very lowest ebb, the French Revolution having destroyed every place of education within its radius and in this way deprived English Catholics

of a very large part of 'polite' as well as religious training.

The gradual growth of modern colleges does not come within our sphere, none having been founded in this county.

The plan upon which this History is drawn up is the division of the county into seven parts :—

1. The Northern, comprising the north of the county between the rivers Cherwell and Evenlode, and bounded on the west by Gloucestershire.

2. The North-Eastern portion, extending from the Cherwell to the borders of Bucks., and as far south as the river Ray.

3 and 4. The North-Western and Mid-Western portions, extending from the river Cherwell to the borders of Gloucestershire.

5. The Central portion, extending from Woodstock to the river Thames.

6 and 7. The Southern portion of the county.

The northern divisions were principally worked by Benedictine and Franciscan clergy ; the central by Jesuits ; while the southern, being contiguous to other counties, shows the influence of much intercourse beyond the borders.

Into these seven parts our History falls, and in each portion we have tried to show how Benedictine, Franciscan, Jesuit, and secular priest have worked together with the laity during the storms of three centuries to preserve the pre-Reformation Faith in the county of Oxford.

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ERRATA

Page 53, l. 9, and p. 55, l. 15, *for* Guildford *read* Guldeford.
 Page 156, l. 11, *for* Briex *read* St. Briex.

CATHOLIC MISSIONS IN OXFORDSHIRE

INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER

FROM ELIZABETH TO THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

GENERAL NOTICES, BEGINNING IN THE LAST YEARS OF QUEEN ELIZABETH

FROM Foley's *Records* we gather much of what we are able to state as to Catholicity in Oxfordshire when James I came to the throne. Foley quotes a paper of the date of 1583¹, recording the names of Seminarists and Recusants delivered by Lord Hunsdon to the Government. We confine our extracts from this to this county.

1583. *Feb.* The names of certain persons noted in sundrie counties to be receivers and entertainers of Jesuits and Seminaries.

Oxon. Mr. Borne of Chesterton Grange harboureth and entertaineth: Smith, alias Partridge, Anslow, alias Transham, Chapman, Dew, Filbie.

Mr. Butler of Bicester . . . the same. Also Askew, alias Nutter; Filbie, alias Leye.

Paxton	}	Schismatics, of Godington, entertain the same.
Browne		
Cupper		
Jackson		

Mr. Owen of Godstow keepeth him continually in his house,
Hynde, a priest.

Barber and Sampson of Oxon (Schismatics, wives Catholics).

Mrs. Pitte of Ifley; entertaineth Smyth, a priest, and keepeth him continually in her house.	}	Recusants.
Forde's eldest son of Garsington, a common leader of priests about the country.		

¹ Vol. 6, p. 719.

Having here the names of the above persons who are marked either as 'Schismatics' or 'Recusants,' let us analyse the list and try to rescue some scraps from oblivion to their late but imperishable honour.

The mention of Forde, a 'leader of priests,' calls for special mention. From Foley we learn as follows. George Gilbert got together an association of young Catholic gentlemen, who undertook to conduct priests from one house to another. Their rules required them to imitate the lives of the Apostles, to content themselves with food and clothing and the bare necessities of their state, and to bestow all the rest for the good of the Catholic cause. This Association was solemnly blessed by Gregory XIII on April 14, 1580, and its members soon became known as 'sub-seminaries,' 'conductors,' 'lay assistants,' 'to struggle abroad and bring in game,' &c. This company was called 'The Catholic Association.'

In the year 1581 Father Campion had been taken in the house of the Yates, at Lyford, near Bampton, and had suffered the penalty of the law at Tyburn. Still Catholic priests were to be found in Oxford ready to risk their lives upon detection and once more again to return to their charitable duties. For example, at the Assizes before Justices Yelverton and Williams in February, 1604, 'one Adam Greene, a Seminary priest, was delivered out of Oxford Gaol by virtue of the King's recent proclamation to the intent that he should have departed the realm . . . but soon after he returned to Oxford and was then taken in the same house which he had haunted before. At the last Assizes he was attainted of treason according to the law, but reprieved and staid from execution, but contemning their favour, within 10 days after, he had prepared in his chamber in the Castle of Oxford, all things ready to say masse.' This is quoted by Foley from *State Papers Domestic, James I.* Continuing: 'one Tuckines a Jesuit was apprehended at Oxford since the last Assizes, with all things prepared to say Masse.' Possibly this refers to the same person.

1592. RECUSANTS IN THE CO. OF OXFORD REMAINING AT LIBERTY¹.

Diocese of Oxon.

William Moore of Haddon, Esqre.

William Borne of Wendlebury.

John Archdale of Whateley.

John Stampe of Halton.

Thomas Tempest of Bampton.

Edward Ansley of Chasilton.

¹ *Calendar of Cecil MSS., Part 3.*

Thomas Moore of Adderbury.
 Michael Busard of the same.
 Jerome Regland of Sherborne.
 William Mullins of Mongewell.
 John Borne of Chesterton.
 John Stutsburie of Solden.
 Thomas Ashe of Bucknell.
 John Thompson of Broadwell.
 Richard FitzHughes of Charlburie.
 William Hart of Eynsam.
 Nicholas Pigot of Stoken.
 Thomas Grimwell of Oxford.
 William Napper of Oxford.
 Henry Rooke of Stanton St. John.
 John Etheridg of Oxford, physician.

These are stated to be 'gentlemen.'

RECUSANTS COMMITTED TO PRISON.

Richard Owen of Godstowe, esqr.
 Ambrose Edmonds of Stanton.
 George Napper of Oxford, gent.
 The lady Stonar.

RECUSANTS AT LIBERTY UPON BONDS.

James Ansley of Oxford, gent.
 Francis Yate of Kencot, gent.
 James Braybrooke of Kinston, gent.
 William Moore of Haddon, esqre.

The two preceding lists of names are of great local interest, and each name will be treated in its own parish as it comes round.

The reference to the name of Ansley at Oxford and at Chasilton (Chastleton) probably localizes the martyr Edward Strancham, who suffered at Tyburn in 1585-6. The list of 1583 calls him 'Anslow alias Transham,' and Challoner, vol. i, says he was born in or near Oxford. Another alias for Mr. Strancham was Barber. He graduated at St. John's, Oxford, in 1575-6, and is said to be '*filis pleb.*, aged 18 in 1575, native of Oxford.' The name is spelt in the University Register (ed. Clark's) Stransam, Stransham, Strinsham, Transham, and Transome.

Father John Hart, S. J., is not entered in the above Register, but he may very likely have been one of the family of Hart of Eynsham, as he is called 'a native of Oxford.'

In the *5th Report Historical MSS. Commission* (p. 476) are men-

tioned various letters from Catholic priests in Sussex, Lancaster, Wales and Oxford, York and London, to Pope Paul V, 1610-11, as among papers kept by the Archbishop of Westminster. The following letter, quoted in Foley, vol. iv, appears to be from this source, and will help to show us the extremities to which the poor 'popish recusants' were driven by the blind hatred of those in power:—

'You may easily perceive what a plunge he (the unfortunate recusant) is put into, for first on one side he is daily crying for money, and wolves on the other are gaping to devour him. Our miseries are daily multiplied, we expect every hour dissolution. Our friends abroad are spoiled to their skin; what by the pursuivants and what robberies they suffer by the under-sheriff and his followers it is long to tell you, neither pots nor pans, nor bedding, nor ring, nor jewels, nor anything whatsoever escapeth their hands. The oath is offered by the justices even at their pleasure, yet some of them cannot but in their hearts detest the injury. Divers priests have been banished of late . . .; no forbearance to them that will not take the oath, which God be thanked, is refused hitherto of all, both secular and religious, save only Mr. Blackwell and three or four that persist with him in his old vein. We hope for all this that God will give us patience to bear these afflictions and strength to pass through such terrible wars. Your old friend Mr. George Napper lieth in Oxford gaol, condemned but reprieved, and might have been escaped for taking the oath. It is thought he shall be banished. . . . Mrs. Wyes and her sister Katherine hath been these five weeks in physic at Oxford. We are so much distracted with terrors and fearful news that we can not pray either for our friends or for ourselves. We are therefore forced to commend us to your devotions there, which I hope will procure us great help in the heat of our conflict, and desiring you to communicate this little news to Mr. More, if you may be permitted, I wish you all happy progress in your labours, this Nov. 2^d, 1610.

Yours ever assured,

GEORGE LAMBTON.'

A few days after this letter was penned, the said George Napper obtained his crown, the expected reprieve being at last denied him. The Mr. More mentioned above was the Rev. Thos. More, the agent in Rome for the English clergy. George Lambton usually signed his letters 'George West.'

The following little Puritan ballad will account for some of the ignorant fury against Catholics, connected as they were in the popular mind with Spain, both ecclesiastically and politically, through the hated Spanish marriage and the nationality of the founder of the Jesuits.

1622. A POEM IN THREE PARTS¹.

1st a Puritan. 2nd a Protestant. 3rd a Papist.

After describing the two first, the poem goes on:—

‘A Romanist is such another thing
As would with all his heart murder the King;
That sayeth the house of Austria is appoynted
To rule all Christians, and for this annoynted
By Christ’s own Vicar
Now if you him anatomized will have
He is Spayne’s Ass, his Country’s foe, Rome’s Slave.’

In the reign of James I the Jesuits were very numerous in this part of England, and Father Blunt, or Blount (who was a convert), from Leicestershire, but a collateral of the Oxfordshire family, was instrumental in organizing them, and drawing the Catholics together round the principal gentlemen’s houses in the district. Father Richard Blount had been sent to Oxford for education, but, his name not appearing in the Matriculation lists, he probably left the place very early; he went thence to Rome, and was ordained priest. In 1590 he set out for England with eleven other priests, became a Jesuit, and served the Mission of Scotney Castle in Sussex for several years. His wonderful escape from Scotney upon a visit of the pursuivants is told by himself. Under his government the Jesuit Mission in England was raised to a ‘Vice-Province’ in 1619, and in 1623 it was made into a ‘Province,’ with Father Blount as its Provincial. In 1620 he undertook to organize the local ‘Missions,’ assigning a Superior and Precincts to each one. He died in London, May 13, 1638, and was buried in Queen Henrietta Maria’s chapel².

1628-9. *Feb.* A search having been made in the house of the Earl of Shrewsbury, locality not mentioned, certain books and papers were discovered showing them to belong to Jesuits, among the number was brought to light the account of this very arrangement:—

‘Domus probationis Soc. Sancti Ignatii Jesu. The Order for Government.

A special direction for the provincial congregation, and Father Blount for the Government.

A note of all papists in the province and how they may be summoned.

The Bishop of Chalcedon made governor³.’

¹ 10th Report Hist. MSS., App. iv, p. 23.

³ 13th Report Hist. MSS., App. vii,

² See Oliver’s *Biography of Jesuits* and Butler’s *Memoirs*. p. 71.

As Father Blount left them, the Missions of Oxfordshire remained substantially the same down to the time of the Catholic Emancipation.

The 'residence of St. Mary's,' as apportioned by Father Blunt, S.J., Vice-Provincial, in 1620, comprised the counties of Bucks., Beds., Northants, and Oxon. The number of priests to serve these four counties varied in number from eight to sixteen. The places in Oxfordshire mentioned are as follows:—

Britwell.	Water Pery.
Hazeley Court and Great Hazeley.	Woodstock.
Oxford.	Kiddington.
Somerton.	Maple Durham.
Tusmore ¹ .	Sandford-on-Thames ² .

Amongst themselves the Society knew this district as 'Mrs. Oxon.' In 1635 a certain noble lady left them a legacy of £1,000, and the same year they received a present of vestments and other church furniture to the value of £240, in honour of St. Francis Xavier. He had been canonized in 1622.

We insert a copy of the first draft of a bill against Recusants, drawn up in 1593. Whether ever published we cannot say.

DRAFT OF FIRST BILL AGAINST RECUSANTS³.

'1593, March.

1. Pains and penalties against recusants for not repairing to church.
2. If a wife do not conform she shall not have dower, jointure, or legacy by her husband, and if a man marry a recusant, the Queen, during the life-time of the wife, shall have two parts of the possessions she brings her husband.
3. Recusants to be incapable of holding land by gift, purchase, or limitation of any use, and incapable of legacies or devises.
4. Persons relieving or maintaining recusants for a month to forfeit £10, and the same penalty for any person keeping a recusant servant for a month.
5. Recusants shall forfeit to their lords their copyhold lands, the Queen taking two parts of the profits.
6. Recusants disabled to have any office or practice as councillor, doctor, proctor, attorney, solicitor, or clerk in any court ecclesiastical.
7. Children of recusants over seven years to be brought up at the charge of their parents, under the government of discreet persons thereunto

¹ As the Fermors did not own Tusmore at this time, this may refer to their predecessors the Williamsons.

² Printed in Foley.

³ *Hist. MSS. Com.*

assigned by six of the Privy Council, by the Bishop of the Diocese, or the Justices of Assize.

8. Persons suffering their children to be baptized by any Jesuit, seminary, or other massing priest, shall forfeit £100 for every offence.

9. Bargains or assurances of land by recusants to be void during life of offender and also trusts.

10. All duties and forfeitures under this Act to be levied in the Courts of Common Law.

11. Form of indictment of recusants. (Not set out.)

12. If recusants complain they are unjustly treated, the Lord Treasurer, Chancellor, and Barons of the Exchequer may inquire into the truth; a recusant may, by repairing to church and hearing divine service and making submission, avoid the penalties of the Act, but a recusant who has once submitted may never take any advantage for submission for the like offence again. The Act shall not avoid any grant or estate that any person, other than the offenders, have bona fide purchased or gotten.'

End: by Lord Burghley, 'Draft of the first bill against Recusants.'

In Rymer's *Foedera*, vol. xviii, pp. 266, 847, 1037, are letters or proclamations for the better restraint of Popish Recusants, *temp.* Charles I. The following extracts from the various proclamations of this date will be interesting:—

1625. 'A Royal Proclamation for the better confining of Popish Recusants convict according to the Lawe. A reward of one-fourth of the estate to any who should inform.'

1626. 'Whereas &c., &c., Wee resolved to put the lawes in execution against Jesuits, priests and popish recusants and by their just forfeitures accruing unto Us to increase our revenue toward the defraying of expenses for the publicke defence of our State, &c., &c.'; it goes on to grant a small relaxation of the laws, 'for fear that being too strictly carried out the recusants may become a burden upon their parishes . . . therefore under most stringent regulations they are granted the choice of taking leases of the two-thirds of their lands which fell to the Crown, so as always to give not less than the rent for such that any other person would render; in regard to contracts already made they shall remain as they are and other lands not yet contracted for, that the Recusants themselves within three months shall make their composition with our Commissioners for their own lands, or else it shall be free for any other to take the same; and that in the meantime if others shall make a better offer unto Us for our profit that he shall be received.'

1628. 'Whereas . . . another Royal Proclamation ordering the imprisonment of all Jesuits, priests and others having taken Orders by authority of the Church of Rome. . . . And We also give notice to all it may concern that the Harbourers, Receivours or Maintainers of the same shall be left to the due and ordinary course of the Lawe.'

1635. A QUIETUS ROLL OF THE CATHOLIC RECUSANTS RESIDING IN OXON.¹

Sir Edward Norreys; Quietus 11th Charles I.			£	s.	d.
Michel Cole Firmar' terr'	Humphrey Joyner in Adderbury		6	13	4
eodem	terr' Matthew Cheriton in Wolvercote		10	0	0
eodem	terr' Robert Bowne in Cassington		0	106	8
eodem tenen' terr'	Richard Poore in Oddington		11	15	6½
do. do. terr'	Francis Fountayne in Ascott		0	6	0
do. do. terr'	Thomas Smith in Compton		0	20	0
do. do. terr'	Philip Horne in Watlington		0	13	4
do. do. terr'	John Foorde in Watlington		0	13	4
do. do. terr'	Thomas Clements & uxor ejus in Chalburie		53	6	8
do. do. terr'	Thomas Napper in Temple Cowley.		28	6	8
do. do. terr'	Charles Blount Miles in Maple Durham		13	6	8
do. do. terr'	William Kenyon in Ascott		11	2	6
do. do. terr'	Dorothee Mayne in Prestend (Thame)		0	40	0
Jacob Reynolds Firmar terr'	Richard Reynolds de Cassington		0	53	4
eodem	terr' William Reynolds de Cassington		20	0	0

Many of these families were still in possession of the same lands a hundred years later. We shall, as we proceed, take them one by one as each parish comes round. Several lists are extant of similar returns of Catholic names during the century.

‘Number of Convictions of Recusants in southern counties of England from the 1st to the 14th year of Charles I. Oxfordshire, 440².’

Upon the breaking out of the Civil War and the presence of the Court at Oxford, we are told that many Papists were in the city. The general rendezvous was the Mitre Inn, where Recusants from all parts were wont to assemble. Naturally the popular mind attributed to them constant plots against the Parliament. How this unjust suspicion was met by the University the following will show:—

1642, Jan. 17, Oxford. ‘Bishop Prideaux of Worcester, V.Chanc. of University of Oxford, to Secretary Nicholas. According to his Majesty’s commands I convented this day all the Heads of the Colleges and Halls and acquainted them with the royal instructions concerning maintaining

¹ This paper is copied from the original belonging to Mr. Madan, of the Bodleian.

² Will. Payne’s *Popish Royall Favourite*, p. 15.

the liberties of Parliament as the preservation of his own just prerogative, etc., etc. There has been a rumour concerning a design of Papists upon us. Some old armour with 24 barrels of powder have been found at the sign of the Star in the city, which is in the safe custody of the Mayor. Upon examination the armour was found to have been pawned long since by Sir William Spencer to Mr. Williams¹, the party with whom it was found; and the powder belonged to the County, for whose use it was long since laid up, which I thought fit to give you a hint of, that jealousy might not grow where there is no cause, which I desire you to acquaint his Majesty with, as you think fit, with tender of my most humble service².

1642. The spring and summer were spent in Oxford in training men for the Royalist party in the coming conflict. In August the principal men of the county met at the Star to consult about fortifying the town, and there were present Sir Robert Dormer, Sir John Curzon, and the Earl of Berkshire (Catholics or wives recusant). Bodies of troops of both sides came and went under the Lords Biron and Saye and Sele; the latter, Lord Lieutenant of the county, came to Oxford in September, and lay at the Star. He caused search to be made, and burnt divers popish books and pictures, which had been taken out of churches and papists' houses here and abroad, in the streets before the Star, and elsewhere³.

Notwithstanding this Puritan zeal, Catholics remained quiet, and their loyalty at this critical time is testified by the following letter from a lady of rank and influence in the county:—

A LETTER FROM LADY LEE TO MR. HYDE⁴.

'GOOD COUSIN,

'1640, Nov.

Your goodness desarved so much from me as it makes me still mindfull how great a depths I am to you, so that I take all ocations to give you thankes, tho' it bee to your punishment to reed my letters, yet my gratefulnes must not bee omitted, nor the assurance I must still give you how happy I account my self in your friendship & now I must tell you how fearfull wee country peopell are of the success of the parlement, that some think it will not hold, but for my part I am of another opinion, because the King wants money hee will be nesciated too it, if the lower

¹ Williams of the Star, now the Clarendon Hotel, was a Catholic. His son, 'Father Thomas Williams, S.J., was the son of a leading merchant in the city of Oxford; he was born there in 1539, his parents both Catholics; Professor of Mathematics at Vienna, and died at Olmütz, Dec. 11, 1613.'

² *State Papers Domestic*, 1641-3,

p. 258; also Gough Pamphlets, 2132, Wood 514 (7); Confutation of same, Z. 1. 17. Jur., Wood 276a (307), in Bodleian Library.

³ *13th Report Hist. MSS.*, Part i, p. 56, and Wood, *Life and Times*, vol. i, p. 62.

⁴ *Clarendon State Papers*, No. 1457, in Bodleian Library.

house bee not too busy, there are many papish in Oxfordsheere who begin to look blank & I believe they doe so with you. I beseeche God send us well rid of the Scotese for I fear them much. . . . [The rest is merely private matter.]

Your faithfull friend & cosen

ANN LEE.'

It would appear, and there is reason to suppose, that the Catholic party, during the reign of Charles I, were hoping for a radical change in public feeling in their favour. The High Churchism of Laud was looked upon with a sanguine eye, and so far had his conduct led the thoughts of Catholics, that it was confidently stated that a person in authority had twice offered him the Cardinal's hat. This was in July, 1633, and in the following month the Bishop acquainted the King with the whole matter, who answered him that, 'Something dwelt within him which would not suffer that until Rome was other than it is'.¹

The idea apparently lingered on through the strife and turmoil of the Civil War, and would seem to have influenced the Bishop of Chalcedon, Dr. Richard Smith, at that time living in Paris, who issued Letters Patent, dated Paris, June 9, 1649, appointing 'George Gage, Vicar-General, and Richard Maurice, Archdeacon of Oxford, Berks., and Bucks.'²

This plan for founding the Archdeaconry was carried out, an Archdeacon for the three counties was duly appointed, and the names of each succeeding Archdeacon are preserved for us in the Chapter Records.

NAMES OF SOME OF THE CATHOLIC GENTRY WHO SUFFERED IN THEIR LIVES AND FORTUNES IN OXFORD DURING THE CIVIL WAR, IN THE ROYAL CAUSE³.

'A Catalogue of the Lords, Knights & gentlemen (of the Catholic religion) that were slaine in the late warre in Defense of their King & country, as also of those whose estates were sold by the "Rump" for that Cause.

Sir Henry Gage⁴, Governor of Oxford, at Cullom Bridge, near Abingdon, 11 Jan. 1644.

Earl of Carnarvon (Dormer), killed at Newbury first fight.

Sir Arthur Aston, Governor of Oxford, lost a leg, killed at the siege of Drogheda, his brains dashed out with his own wooden leg.

¹ See *Athenae Oxon.*, under Laud.

² See *5th Report Hist. MSS.*, p. 467, and Papers belonging to the Catholic Chapter of London, Spanish Place.

³ Printed in *Kalendarium Catho-*

licum, by Thos. Blount, in 1661, 1662, 1663, 1686; also in *Catholicon*, 1815, vol. i.

⁴ Sir Henry Gage buried in Cathedral at Oxford, Jan. 13, 1644.

Lt. Col. N. Goodridge, died at Oxford from his wounds.

Capt. Thurston Anderton, wounded at Newbury, died at Oxford.

Capt. Robert Rookwood, died at Oxford.

Sir Peter Browne of Kiddington was wounded at Naseby, died at Northampton.

Colonel Thomas Morgan¹ of Weston in Warwickshire, slain at Newbury first battle; he raised a regiment of Horse for the King at his own charge and his estate was given to Mr. Pym's son.

Gentlemen Volunteers.

Mr. Edward Talbot², brother to the now Earl of Shrewsbury, slain at Marston Moor.

Mr. Christopher & Lewis Blount, 1st killed at Edgbaston, 2d at Manchester.

Wm. Stonor, killed at Basing.

Estates confiscated by Parliament, 1652.

Thos. Brook³ of Madely Esqre.⁴

COLONEL FRANCIS WINDEBANK.

A pathetic incident of the Civil War, and not indirectly connected with Catholic matters, is the unhappy death of a young officer, son of Mr. Secretary Windebank.

Sir Francis, who was son of Sir Thomas Windebank of Hainshell, co. Bucks., a zealous Catholic and a sincere royalist, was made Secretary of State by Charles I in 1632. The family were disliked and impeached by the Puritan party, and consequently Sir Francis⁵ retired to Paris. After the battle of Edgehill, when the King was in Oxford, the Secretary returned to England and begged an audience of the King. This, however, was refused him, and going back to Paris he died there in 1646.

One of his sons, bearing the same name, was in command of the garrison⁶ at Bletchington House, which was held for the King during the autumn and winter of 1644-5. After many attempts the Parliamentary Forces were enabled at last to cross the Cherwell, and they

¹ Colonel Morgan married a Fermor, buried at Somerton, q.v.

² Mr. E. Talbot, son of John, tenth Earl, by his second wife, F. Arundel.

³ Thos. Brook, family at North Aston, q.v.

⁴ The above names are those which seemed to have been more particularly connected with Oxfordshire.

⁶ Wood's *Fasti*, ed. Bliss, and *City of Oxford*, vol. iii, p. 227. Buried in

St. Mary Magdalen, 'Colonell . . . Windebanke, 3d May, 1645.' One report says he was shot in Broken Hayes, now Gloucester Green, and not at Merton. This would seem the more probable, as he was buried in the same parish, in the church of St. Mary Magdalen.

⁶ Wing's *Annals of Bletchington*, p. 41.

advanced upon Bletchington, calling the governor to surrender, 'who being summoned by the victorious Cromwell, and persuaded by his beautiful young bride and other ladies that came to visit her, surrendered the place, with all the arms and ammunition, for which he was shot to death at Oxford by sentence of a Council of War.' 'For which surrender the hopeful young gentleman, for all the entreaties and prayers of his wife and the merit of his father, was shot to death against Merton College wall, to the great regret afterwards of the King when he understood the business, and for which he was highly displeased with Prince Rupert.' Although the culpable hurry of this execution cannot be condoned, it was remarked at the time 'that the religion and demerits of the father had no small influence over his persecutors'; another brother was also a Catholic.

Oxford surrendered to the Parliamentary General, Sir Thomas Fairfax, on Midsummer Day, 1646; in November following the leading Catholics at that time in the city—Lord Aberganny, Lord Stourton, Edward and William Thorold, and John Paston—in their own behalf, and in the behalf of others, petitioned Fairfax for assurance of safety. He assured them that it was not intended to exclude from the articles of amnesty any Papists or Popish Recusants then in Oxford¹.

THE RESTORATION OF CHARLES II.

The return of the Stuarts brought hope and renewed life to the Catholic body; these hopes were not unnatural seeing the undoubted loyalty they had consistently shown to the royal house, which was well known to the King, and not unacknowledged by him whilst his mind was free from the pernicious influence of the remnant of the Puritan party.

Their sufferings as Royalists from a purely political standpoint had been very severe and bitter, being as they were victims of two systems of extortion, viz. fines as 'Popish recusants' and fines as 'Delinquents in arms.' Farms were thrown out of cultivation, trade languished in the towns, and many a loyal Catholic family was broken up and dispersed and their old homes destroyed. The practice of loyalty was nevertheless not to be looked upon as a state of heroism apart from plain duty, and this was impressed upon them by Rome.

A note in one of Wood's MSS. records that in the month of August,

¹ See *13th Report Hist. MSS.*, Part i, p. 398.

1669, certain English gentlemen in Rome, to wit, Mr. Russell, son of the Duke of Bedford, Mr. Sheldon, of Beoly, and Mr. Holt, the priest, went to take their leave of the Pope, Clement IX. They being upon their knees, the Pope told them:—

‘It is indeed a great credit to the Catholic religion, and much to the honour of the Catholics of England, that they have been so true to their King in all the time of his troubles; and yet after all this I would not have them set a value upon themselves for what they have done, for they must know they have done nothing but their duty, and what they are to do again for the King they must do it tho’ he gives them no recompence. But yet the King is a good man and without doubt will in time consider you, as his occasions will give him leave. You must therefore go on cheerfully in performing your duty, which is obedience to your sovereign, or else you cannot save your souls¹.’

Although Charles II licensed a great number of Nonconformist chapels, no Catholic place of worship was so fortunate; but the rigour of the last century was somewhat relaxed, and the freedom which culminated in the next reign began at this time. The influence of a Catholic queen was naturally felt in Oxford, where Catherine for some time held her Court in Merton College, and mass was regularly said in the chapel. Not only within the College, but at Beam Hall, the home of Mistress Mary Wood, was mass said². Confidence seemed to have been restored when, alas! the agitation occasioned by Titus Oates and his dupes aroused the dormant ill-feeling of the populace, and the persecution once more broke out. How Oates’s plot affected our county, Wood will tell us:—

1678. *Sep.* 29. ‘Citizens of Oxford & the University put themselves in defence after the popish plot broke out.’ *Oct.* 12. ‘Mr. Ralph Sheldon’s house searched for arms which were carried away by six men under the command of Sir John Mordaunt, on a plot of the papists discovered a week before in London³.’ *Nov.* ‘Many of the divines in Oxford of poore spirits prick up their ears & crests upon the discovery of the plot, talk very boldly & undaunted.’ *Nov.* 5. ‘Preachers at Oxford and elsewhere malapert. Dr. Hall of Pembroke Coll., presbyterian, preached sharply & bitterly

¹ Printed in Wood’s *Life and Times*, vol. ii, p. 170. Probably received by Wood from his friend, Mr. Sheldon. ‘The University had been abandoned by Catholics during the Commonwealth and parents sent their children beyond seas, while before the War they did not,

but sent them to the University to Gloucester College.’ Wood, *u.s.*, vol. i, p. 465 (written in 1662).

² Wood, *u.s.*, vol. ii, p. 49.

³ Wood does not say whether this house was in London or Oxon.

against the papists on 5 Nov. at St. Marie's. The same night the Pope, in the shape of an old man, was burnt at a fier at St. Edmund's Hall. A great white cross made of papers & sticks burnt in St. Clement's. About the 5th Nov. one of the dragoons clapt up in prison (the Castle) as suspected to be either a priest or a monke. It seems being a little in drink he spoke some scraps of latin as "quo modo vales," "Salve Domine." Mr. Michael Harding¹ of Trinity accuses him. I heare he hath been a traveller & by Order a Dominican.' *Nov.* 13. 'A generall fast throughout the nation,' etc. *Nov.* 22. 'Mr. Thomas Marriot, high sheriff of Warwickshire & his under sheriff came to Mr. Ralph Sheldon's² house with a warrant from the privy council to imprison him either in Warwick jayle or at London. He therefore went to Warwick.' *Nov.* 28. 'Dr. John Wallis took away all my writings, etc., etc., he supposing that I might be in the plot because Mr. Sheldon was lately clapt in prison. A man that is studious and reserved is popishly affected.' *Dec.* 'Several scholars suspected to be papists & searched. Papists' company avoided. John Nicholas, the Vice-chancellor, busie in this plot; did not care who he caught or hanged so he got favour from the parliament.' 'On Sunday the 1st Dec. the V. Chancellor searched Mr. Wood's papers & correspondence with Mr. Sheldon, but finding nothing to compromise him, he enjoined him to take the oathes of supremacie & allegiance, which was accordingly done the next morning.'

'Note that upon searching & examining letters upon the road the inland post suffered for many weeks 400 *li* damages, because people afraid to send.' *Dec.* 11. 'Barnsley a Jesuit came then through Oxford in his journey (from Warwick to London) attended by a guard and tipstaff; rayled at by the boys. Note that one whom they call Father Lovell, a Jesuit, hath lived in Oxford many years to supply service for the Catholics in & near Oxford; but upon the late proclamation for the taking & securing all Jesuits & Rom. priests the house wherein he lives, Mrs. Hunt's at the Castle Mill, hath, since the proclamation been published, been searched as they say, twice for him; & Monday Dec. 16 he being seen in Oxon early in the morning, the house again was searched that day between 11 & 12 in the morning. His being seen is but a report, & the searching of the house was but in course when they did all the papists' houses in towne. They say once he took water behind Mrs. Fulk's house. Mr. Joyner was taken at this time.'

Dec. 29. 'This plot will undo all what the Catholics have endeavoured to do since the king's restoration.' *Jan.* 24. 'Parliament prorogued, searching and examining people left off, & some sorry for what they had done. Further remarks are made, as many new pamphlets come out³ against popery and papists; nothing but pamphlets are taken into scholars' hands & they buy nothing else. Oxford during this winter was full of soldiers⁴.'

¹ Some of the Hardings were Catholics and lived in Holywell parish.

² This Mr. Sheldon must have been Wood's friend, of Weston, War.

³ A catalogue of all these pamphlets is in Wood MS. E 27 (2).

⁴ *Life and Times*, vol. ii, pp. 416 et seq.

In the month of Feb., 1678-9, the Heads of Houses in Oxford were called upon to make returns to the Vice-Chancellor of all persons in their societies who were suspected to be papists, that the oaths might be tendered to them. Anthony Wood was himself returned by the Head of Merton. Curiously enough Dr. O. Walker, of University College, certifies that he knows no one in that College to be either papists or popishly inclined. In October this year Titus Oates was asked down to Woodstock by Lord Lovelace, who at that time inhabited the old Gate House. It was the race week, and Lovelace invited Oates to preach on the Sunday and Tuesday. This appears to have been done partly to spite the Court party for depriving Lovelace of the Rangership of Woodstock Park. After the race Oates sent word to the Vice-Chancellor that 'he would come & wait on him, and not surprise him, for his degree,' this was denied him, whereupon, says Wood, 'he and the citizens say we are papists'¹.

In November another Proclamation against popish priests and Jesuits was issued, but in Oxford things appear to have quieted down, and no more is said on the subject.

During this lull in the political storm we may interest ourselves by picking up any stray side-lights which may be thrown upon the scene. In the years 1669 and 1671 Wood casually tells us (*Life and Times*, vol. ii) that 'Mr. John Huddleston and Mr. Thomas Vincent, alias Sadler,' were living in Amsterdam Court, a locality formerly occupying the new quadrangle of Brasenose. It is possible that a quasi-public chapel or oratory was not far off.

There is still to be seen extending under the Mitre Hotel and the adjoining house at the corner of High Street and the Turl a very long and ancient cellar, vaulted throughout. The early history of this building is lost in antiquity. Wood (u.s.) tells us that about forty years before his time, that is about 1620, there had been a stained-glass window in the side looking north, and that he considered it had been an Oratory. Later on alterations were made, and in place of the window a staircase was inserted leading up to the room above, and coming out into a small closet over the fireplace, in which is a peep-hole. At the present time (1905) it is still existing, and has always been described by the people of the house as a 'priest's hiding-hole.' The tenants of the Mitre were known to have been Catholics for many years, so we may confidently look upon this as one of the

¹ See Wood, *Life and Times*, vol. ii, pp. 439 and 465.

many possible catacombs used by the Faithful in the vast cellarage which undermines this part of Oxford. A few years later Hearne, as great a friend to Catholics as ever Wood had been, though in a *dilettante* antiquarian sort of fashion, tells us of his visits to the Mitre, where he met Mr. and Mrs. Blount of Mapledurham, also Mr. and Mrs. Blount of Orleton, and 'some other truly virtuous and good people of the Roman Catholic persuasion,' introduced by Mr. Sexton of Gray's Inn, 'a man of excellent learning and who acts as attorney to many Roman Catholics¹.'

Having thus brought our records through the agitation consequent upon 'Oates's Plot,' and seen how the public mind was gradually tranquillized after the proroguing of Parliament in February, 1678, we can now follow the renewed hopes of the Catholics upon the accession of James II in 1685.

The efforts made by the Jesuits at this time are very graphically told by one of themselves in the 'Annual Letter' to the Provincial abroad for the year 1684-5:—

'Great efforts were made at Oxford to gain a firm footing for the Fathers of the Society. Inasmuch as Oxford possesses the most celebrated University in England, or rather in Europe, it was considered that it would tend to the glory of God and the good of the Catholic Faith that the Fathers should be in force in that City, the citadel or principal bulwark of heresy.' 'In the Catholic Mission in Oxford for the year 1684-5 the Fathers were not wanting in zeal tho' surrounded by public disturbances. A Fellow of one of the Colleges holding church preferment, discovered by the grace of God the errors of Protestantism and embraced the Catholic Faith. Being confined to his bed by serious illness he sent for one of the Fathers of the Society who received him into the true Fold. . . . The convert upon his death-bed avowed the fact with the utmost frankness and joy before many of his fellow Collegians².'

We will again follow the turn of events, as jotted down by Wood day by day³. Among the converts of rank he mentions Mr. William Spencer, eldest son of Sir Thomas Spencer of Yarnton. He died in his father's lifetime, in 1683.

1686. *Jan.* The Master of University College, Obadiah Walker, was sent for to London (Wood does not say upon whose authority), and upon his return he declared himself a Catholic.

'Tis supposed that his going up to London was to persuade him to declare. He was several times with Dr. John Leybourne, Bishop of

¹ See Hearne, ed. Bliss, and 'O. H. Society.

² Foley's *Records*, vol. vii, p. 954.

³ *Life and Times*, vol. iii.

Adrametum. . . . At the beginning of March he did declare to some of his friends that he was a Roman Catholic. . . . His company comes to him still & there be meetings every night in his lodgings.' May 8. 'Mr. O. Walker had protection come to him from the King under seal, to protect him for what he should omit or do¹. Other protection for Nathaniel Boys, Univ. Coll., Thomas Deane, Univ. Coll., John Barnard, Brasenose Coll.' June 20. 'Mr. John Massey preached at St. Marie's, p. m., for Mr. O. Walker; watch & wait laid whether he uttered popery or anything savouring of it, because suspected to be a papist. Bred up under Mr. Walker, his servitour.' June 29. 'Dr. Leybourne, jun. doctor of Sorbonne, in Oxford, talking with Mr. John Massey & expostulating.' Aug. 15. 'Mr. O. Walker, Head of Univ. Coll., opened his chapel for public mass, when some scholars & many troopers were present at 10 in the morning. 'Tis in a lower chamber on the east side of the quadrangle in the entry leading from the quadrangle to his lodgings on the right hand. He set up a printing-press in his own lodgings, the back part of Univ. Coll., & there printed "Church Government," part 5. He had private mass before in his own lodgings.' Oct. 11. 'Mr. John Massey of Merton College went to London to kiss the King's hand in order for the Deanery of Christ Church. Oct. 19th he returned with Mr. O. Walker in accomplishment of his design. . . . Mr. Walker when he returned from London brought a license with him from the King to print what books he please & a great deal of paper. He hath about 30 or 40 books to print.' Dec. 29. 'Mr. John Massey installed in his Dean's place in the Cathedral. He was in surplice & hood & when the 1st lesson was reading he was conveyed to the door of his seat where first his patent was read; then his dispensation from coming to prayers, receiving the sacrament, taking of all oathes & other duties belonging to him as dean. Many young scholars & townsmen were there laughing and girning & making a May-game of the matter . . . but the Canons looked grave.' Feb. 1687. 'Scholars endeavour to crowd into Mr. O. Walker's chapel at Univ. Coll.; he keeps them out; they answer "we do not keep you out of our chapels & churches; & why should you from yours?" Club every night at Mr. O. Walker's—Mr. Walker; John Bernard of B.N.C.; Nathaniel Boys & Thomas Deane² of Univ. Coll.; Edward Hales of Univ.; . . . Clark of Balliol; Edward Umerston, the chaplain to Mr. Walker; sometimes John Massy the dean of Ch. Ch.'

¹ The Dispensations from taking the oaths and from attending service and Common Prayer, &c., and for printing their books were given for O. Walker and his three companions in May, 1686, marked 'Immediate.' See *Historical MSS., House of Lords MSS.*, 1889, 12th Report, App. vi, p. 300.

² Thomas Deane, alias Franks, S.J., alias Father Francis, left Oxford with

Massey on Nov. 30, 1688. He was deprived of his Fellowship Feb. 4, 1688, was imprisoned in London as a Jesuit or priest, and on Dec. 18, 1691, he stood in the Pillory at Charing Cross under the above aliases for concealing a libel against the Government. Later in life he was confined for debt in the Fleet prison, but eventually died in poverty at Malden, Nov. 10, 1735. *Athenae*, ed. Bliss.

The names of the converts then in Oxford were, with those mentioned above, Dormer of Peterleigh, Scarisbrick from Lancashire, Greenwood of Brise Norton (q. v.), Cuffield of Cuffield, all of University College, and Robert Charnock of Magdalen, a publican and four women, to each of whom Wood adds an opprobrious epithet. A few others are incidentally mentioned.

'In the beginning of the month of March John Massey, dean of Ch. Ch., declared; set up an Oratory & took a chaplain, one Mr. J. Ward, a Jesuit as he is called¹. 'April, in the beginning of this month came up at Oxon "a health to the Church dowager," i.e. the distressed or viduated Church of England, & I drank it at the Mermaid Tavern.' July 7. 'Assize began, when in the beginning O. Walker, clerk, & John Massey, dean of Ch. Ch., were nominated justices of the peace.' Aug. 7. 'Sunday in the afternoon at a catechising in Mr. O. Walker's chapel, a gentleman commoner of Ch. Ch. laughed & girmed & showed a great deal of scorne, Dean Massey, a Justice of the Peace, commanded the soldiers there present to seize on him. They did so, had him to the Cross Inn, but soon freed by Protestant officers.'

On Saturday, September 3, 1687, the King came into Oxford and lodged in Christ Church.

'The following morning, being Sunday Sep. 4, he went about 9 of the clock into the Cathedrall, where he touched that morn & the next, about seven or eight hundred people. After he had done there he went to the chapell lately set up by the deane² in the quadrangle called Canterbury quadrangle, where he heard a sermon preached by a secular priest called William Hall³, (borne in the Black Fryers, London, as his father told me, son of Thomas Hall, a cook, living in Ivy Lane neare St. Paul's churchyard in London) which was applauded & admired by all, in the chappell, which was very full (& without) that heard him.'

After dinner he went to University College and there listened to an English oration from a gentleman commoner of that house. 'Which

¹ But more likely a secular priest.

² Viz. the old refectory standing north and south, sometime belonging to Canterbury College. The site of this chapel is now occupied by the easternmost room of the Library of Ch. Ch. There is an engraving of this room in Skelton's *Oxonia Antiqua Restaurata*, vol. ii, plate 124.

³ Foley's *Records*, vol. vii, pt. 2, p. 970. He is mentioned, educated at Eng. Coll., Lisbon, appointed by King James II one

of the Royal Chaplains and preachers. Left England at the Orange Revolution and became a Carthusian Monk at Nieuport, where he died about 1718. He preached a sermon before the Queen Dowager, May 9, 1686. A certain Francis Nicholson of University College became a Catholic and left the country in 1688, went with Hall to Nieuport, but left 1692. (See *Athenae*, vol. iv, p. 450.)

being done he went with many of his guards to Mr. Walker's chappell where he heard Vespers.'

'The following day, 5 Sep. 1687, upon leaving the Sheldonian Theatre, he turned to the Vice-Chancellor & Doctors & said to them "I must commend unto you again love & charity. . . . I must tell you that in the king my father's time the Church of England's men & the Catholics loved each other," etc. The King spoke thus about charity on account of the base & scurrilous language given to Mr. Walker and John Massey when they turned from their religion.' *Nov. 20.* 'Sunday at vespers in dean Massey's chapel was a riot occasioned by a Master of Arts laughing, girning at the priest,' &c.

In addition to these public manifestations of Catholicity in Oxford, the nomination of a Catholic President to Magdalen College by the King, in contravention of the Statutes of the College and the oaths of the Fellows, came to complete the unpopularity of the Throne. The installation of a Catholic dean told badly upon the University, and according to Wood 'the University emptied and many were afraid to send their sons there'¹.

An Irishman, ever ready to take Time by the forelock, appears to have believed that England was once more Catholic; we read that

'In the beginning of July 1688, E. Connor, borne in Dublin, raised himself a hut in Bagley wood, for devotion & reading sake, continuing much in abstinence from beare, ale or meates. Carried home by desire of Dr. Hall (John) 22d July, Sunday, because many people flocked to see him.'

The time was not yet ripe for hermits, and on Sept. 24 Wood 'gave E. Connor an alms & he went towards Ireland.'

1688. This year Sir Henry Browne of Kidlington being High Sheriff, and Mr. Brooks Under-Sheriff, both Catholics, the ordinary routine of business was conducted under Catholic auspices. The Assizes were opened on March 14. The Judges attended the usual sermon at St. Mary's, while 'the Sheriff went to Dean Massey's chapel. Mr. Ward, a Jesuit, preached to the popish auditory'².

'They went to the Gild Hall & nominated severall Justices in the places of the former, some that had been ejected before, that had been violent enemies to the papists. . . . The High Sheriff had about 30 liveryes. . . . Strange alterations made at this time in regulating corporations & putting

¹ *Life and Times*, vol. iii, p. 202.

² The Chaplain, alias Rogers. Query, whether a Jesuit? He was admitted to

Magdalen in 1688, and fled at the Restoration. *Jos. Gillow.*

in & out justices of the peace & other officers, to the great discontent of the nation. Great things are designed which time will reveal.' 'Father Walsh, a moderate man & a secular priest, died about the middle of March; he used to say after the Duke of York was turned papist, that "if ever he should come to be King then Popery would take its farewell of England." King Charles II used to say that, when he (James) came to be King he would not continue in the throne above three years.' *April 17. Easter Tuesday.* 'Henry Mordaunt, Earl of Peterborough, Colonel of the regiment of horse in Oxon, entered in at the North Gate in the afternoon at 4, conducted by his troop thro' the North Street to Brooks his house where he lodged, against the Bull Inn¹. People jealous of his coming. April 18. he was at Mr. Massy's chapel at Ch. Ch., where was a sermon, as they say. All popish scholars in Oxford resorted to him to congratulate his coming.'

We must here give a short summary of the most important innovation attempted in Oxford at this time, the forcing of a Catholic President upon the Fellows and Scholars of Magdalen College.

Dr. Henry Clerke, President of the College, died on March 24, 1687. As soon as the news of his death reached London, several persons who were qualified made interest at court to secure the place. Dr. Thomas Smith, one of the Fellows, who was at the time resident in London, consulted with the Bishop of Oxford upon the advisability of the Bishop recommending him for the Presidentship. Dr. Parker gave him to understand that 'the King expected that the person to be recommended should be favourable to his religion.' Dr. Smith then replied, 'Then let who will take the Presidentship for me; I will look no more after it.'

Upon April 5 the King issued a 'mandamus' willing and requiring the College to elect and admit into the place of President his 'trusted and well-beloved Anthony Farmer, M.A.,' and dispensing with any statute, custom, or constitution to the contrary. Mr. Farmer was not qualified for the post either by his position or by his personal character, which was looked upon with much suspicion. While this was pending, the office was offered to Dr. Baptist Lavinz, Bishop of Man, who would probably have been elected had he not yielded to his brother's influence and declined the post. On April 8 the Fellows drew up an address to the King, by the desire of their Visitor, the Bishop of Winchester, setting forth their objections to Farmer, and begging him to recommend some other person more acceptable to the

¹ The Bull was formerly the next house to Christ Church on the north.

College. The petition was returned with the remark 'the King must be obeyed.' April 15, the latest day allowed by the Statutes, having now arrived, the Fellows assembled to proceed to an election.

'For some time they were running about the Chapel, in their surplices or standing in knots & talking; but when they had come to a conclusion one of the Seniors went to the Altar and began the Communion Service, upon which they all took their places, except Mr. Charnock, who had been elected by Royal Mandate, and was at this time a declared Papist, and Mr. Thompson, who was one of the band of Pensioners at Whitehall, who both went out. The rest having received the Holy Eucharist, and been sworn in order to the election of a President, John Hough, B.D., was regularly and statutably elected: Mr. Charnock and Mr. Thompson, who had come back, declaring afterwards, viva voce, for Mr. Farmer according to the King's Mandate¹.'

The same afternoon the College seal was affixed to the document announcing the election, and upon the 16th Mr. Hough was admitted President by the Bishop of Winchester at Farnham.

Sep. 17, 1687. 'When the Fellows Magdalen had been reproved by his Majesty & commanded to go & admit the Bishop of Oxford as their President, only one or two at most of the Fellows then present were for obeying in this².'

On May 30, the Vice-President and Fellows received a summons to appear before the ecclesiastical commissioners to render an account 'why they did not admit Mr. Farmer.' The inquiry continued on divers dates all through the summer, with the result that, Dr. Farmer not being qualified, and Dr. Hough being pronounced by the Commissioners unduly elected, the King ordered them to 'admit' Dr. Parker, the Bishop of Oxford. His Majesty declared himself to be satisfied with the word 'admission' instead of 'election,' seeing the grave hostility shown by the College³.

Dr. Hough refused to give up his keys, but quietly withdrew, upon October 23, to London. That day twelvemonth he was reinstated. The fact of having the Bishop of Oxford as Head of the House did not restore order. Those of the Fellows who refused to acknowledge him were expelled, to the number of twenty-five; Catholics were left to have their own way for the present; but domestic peace was banished, and religious and political quarrels prevailed. Several Catholic

¹ See *Magdalen College and James II.* p. 204.
O. H. S., Introduction.

³ Wood, *Life and Times*, vol. iii,

² *12th Report Hist. MSS.*, App. vii, p. 246.

Fellows were at this time admitted, all oaths, except that usually taken by a Fellow upon his election, being dispensed with.

1687-8. *Jan.* 'Mr. R. Reeve [O.S.B.] came from France to London with instructions to come to Oxford to teach school at Mag. Coll.' *Jan.* 9. 'Six new popish fellows admitted fellows.' *Jan.* 11. 'At four in the afternoon four more popish fellows admitted. Upon the admission of ten new fellows of Mag. Coll. Mr. Robert Charnock, the vice-President, gave out that they would make use of the College in a popish way, whereupon all plebeians frequent it on Sundays & some on Holydays to keep them out. The outward chapel full & the pavement full. The bell on Sunday nights tolls late when other chapells are done, purposely that scholars may participate in that service. . . . People have got the hint & flock the more & Masters of Art of other houses fill up the Fellows' seats¹.'

Jan. 23. 'The Vice-Chancellor summoned the President before him & told him he would not allow the new Fellows to wear gowns unless matriculated.'

The Fellows appear to have disregarded this admonition; several 'go in mourning gowns & when in the streets are flouted & ginned at & called ill names, &c.,' which matter being much resented by the Fellows, they caused the gates leading into their premises to be closed. These dissensions worked ill to the College, pecuniary embarrassment ensued, the plate was pawned; Mr. Joyner the Bursar complained that he had no rents coming in, and that the College was behind-hand: the numbers in the house were much thinned; 'since last Christmas there are but two gentlemen-commoners & not one nobleman.' *March* 21. 'This day Dr. Parker died.' A few days later he was buried in the outer chapel. He had never sanctioned Catholic service in the college chapel; what was done was done against his wish; now 'the Vice-President Charnock secured the keys of the chapel to prevent Protestant service being held there,' and the altar was fitted up in the Catholic manner for saying mass. The tall candlesticks then used are still on the chapel altar². At last all seemed clear for the Catholics and a new President: Dr. Bonaventure Giffard was installed by proxy upon March 31. But public feeling still ran high against them; owing to want of choristers the usual May morning hymn was not sung this year. Two usual University sermons, on April 25 and June 24, led to schism; the

¹ Wood, *Life and Times*, iii.

² *Magdalen College and James II*, O. H. S., p. 244. 'When the chapel was restored in 1830 these candlesticks, or

possibly copies of them, were placed on the Chapel Altar, where they still remained in 1886.'

preacher appointed by Magdalen, not being acceptable to the University, had his own audience, while the University preacher set up another pulpit at St. Mary's Church.

This summer passed in strife and divided feelings; the city and University were both strongly against the new state of things, and when the King's Declaration in favour of liberty of conscience was sent down to be read in the churches, not one minister would do so. Dr. Giffard arrived in Oxford on June 15, and in July 'he held a public Confirmation to which many flocked to hear him; some admired, the generality laughed & scorned¹.'

LETTER FROM HENRY FLEMING TO SIR DANIEL FLEMING,
CUMBERLAND².

'July 29th, 1688, *Oxford*. Dr. Gyffard, President of Magdalen, confirmed a great many last week in the College chapel, where they have Mass daily & sermons on Sundays. The report of the breaking of the brass eagle in that chapel is false. The College is pretty full and all Papists but two or three. This morning the Judges were both at St. Mary's for sermon, but in the afternoon Rotherham was at a Presbyterian meeting & the Sheriff was at Mass³.'

The Thanksgiving for the birth of the Prince of Wales was held at Oxford on July 1, the third Sunday after Trinity. Magdalen College was in festivity, though little notice was taken of it by the rest of the town.

'Mr. Peckham, a Sorbonist & stranger, preached at Mag. Coll. before the new President, popish officers & soldiers of Oxon & all the papists in & neare Oxford, where besides was very solemn service. Gaudies at some Colleges, and at Magdalen where the Bishop President & all the officers dined in the hall, were the chief doings. When the President & officers went into the hall, the trumpets & kettle-drums sounded at the hall staire-foot; & when each health was dranke they sounded again in the same place. The Bishop all the while he was in the hall had his purple cassock on, down to the foot, girt about⁴.'

This happy security was not long to last. In October disquieting

¹ Wood, *Life and Times*, vol. iii.

² *12th Report Hist. MSS.*, App. vii, p. 212.

³ The previous year Dr. Leyburne came to England and confirmed a multitude of people, principally in the north. No person then living had ever had an opportunity of receiving the Sacrament,

and his total number of *Neophytes* was 20,859. The nearest recorded place to Oxford seems to have been Peterley, the Dormers' place in Bucks., where twelve were confirmed. (See *Catholicon*, vol. iv, p. 86, A.D. 1817.)

⁴ Wood, *Life and Times*, vol. iii.

rumours were heard of a foreign invasion, and troops began to cross the country either to welcome the Prince of Orange or rally round the King.

The Catholic gentry all declared for James, on November 7. 'Sir Henry Browne, Sheriff, & Sir Charles Yate of Buckland came into Oxon at night to raise a troop of horse to goe against the invaders. They took only papists.' The King at last found that he had gone too far in forcing or ignoring public feeling in religious matters, and 'he endeavoured to please the people for union sake that they might not desert him.'

The change in the King's policy resulted in the resignation of the whole of the Catholic staff at Magdalen. The Visitor to the College, the Bishop of Winchester, reinstated the former President, Dr. Hough, all the Fellows who had been ejected the preceding year, excepting two who had contracted other engagements, and thus in the space of a short twelvemonth were effected two radical changes in the government of their Society.

Nov. 27 and 28. 'Mr. John Massy & Mr. Walker removed all their chapel furniture & left Oxford & went towards Dover. The Dean of Ch.Ch. goes like a trooper in a red cloak¹.'

They were taken, in company with Bishops Leyburne and Giffard, at Faversham, by a party who were on the look-out for the King, also on his way to the coast, on December 15. Mr. Walker was first placed in Maidstone gaol, then committed to the Tower, where he lay for some time, being bailed out in 1690. In the same year an Act of Indemnity was passed, from which, however, the name of Dr. Walker was excepted. Wood went up to London in May, 1691², and there witnessed Dr. Walker's will, who lived some years longer, 'having enjoyed a handsome competency through the favour of his friend Dr. Radcliffe, who sent him once a year a new suit of clothes, with ten broad pieces & a dozen bottles of the richest Canary to support his drooping spirits,' who also erected his tomb in St. Pancras' churchyard³ with this inscription only:—

'Per bonam Famam et per Infamiam
obiit Jan. 31, 1699, aet. 68.'

¹ Wood, *Life and Times*, vol. iii.

² *Life and Times*, vol. iii, p. 362.

³ Here also lies 'Abraham Woodhead of Univ. College, afterwards Catholic Schoolmaster at Hoxton, died

4 May, 1678. P. V. Cuthbertus Constable,' and under one stone,

'Bonaventure Giffard

et Andrea Giffard.' (See Hearne and Canswick.)

Dr. Giffard was sent to Newgate and Dr. Leyburne to the Tower.

July 9, 1690. 'Bishop John Leyburne & Bishop Bonaventure Giffard, who had been in prison ever since the King abdicated, were brought to the King's bench Barr & there bailed, upon security given to depart the kingdom by the 1st Augt.¹'

This, however, probably by the intercession of friends, they did not do. Dr. Leyburne worked in England until 1702, and Dr. Giffard continued his episcopal labours until he died at Hammersmith in 1734, aged 92. He was buried in St. Pancras².

Dean Massy upon his arrival in France went to St. Germain, where he resided about two years. Thence he went to Douay, and shortly after he was ordained priest. After a few years spent in Paris he became Chaplain to the English 'Blue Nuns' or 'Conceptionists,' in whose Convent near Paris he died on August 11, 1715³.

During the year 1688-9 the city remained in a very disturbed state, being full of soldiers both for King James and for the Prince of Orange.

1689. *June 15.* Committee of the House of Commons. . . . 'That the King (William) might be addressed to acquaint him with the danger & necessity of expedition. The Papists meet in Oxfordshire, Berks & Bucks in great numbers & are well armed⁴'

The following letter from an undergraduate to his father in Cumberland very graphically pictures the state of affairs:—

HENRY FLEMING TO SIR DANIEL FLEMING⁵.

'1688-9. Jan. 19. Oxford.

We are now pretty quiet again here being not so much troubled with the noise of drums & trumpets, nor with daily false reports of outrages committed by Irish Papists, followed by frequent alarms, as of late we have been. This place has had its full proportion of soldiers, constantly quartering between 2 & 3000, ever since it was taken by my Lord Lovelace, who was met at the east gate of the City by the Mayor & Aldermen in their formalities & complimented by the Recorder in a speech. Shortly after his entry he commanded two bridges to be broken down, viz. on the east &

¹ Wood, *Life and Times*, vol. iii, p. 333.

² Maziere Brady, vol. iii.

³ Gillow, vol. iv.

⁴ *Hist. MSS. Commission, 12th Report*, App. vi, p. 135.

⁵ *12th Report Hist. MSS.*, App. vii, p. 234.

west sides of the town, & secured the north & south by strong guards. The Prince of Orange was within six miles in his march to this town, where he designed to stay some considerable time, being before invited by the Vice-Chancellor with the promise of all the University plate, but receiving an express of the King's departure he went directly to London. The Prince of Denmark came & stayed five or six days, & was met here by the Princess. They & their retinue were entertained by the University at a cost of £1,000 at the least. Dr. Obadiah Walker's books which he lately printed, are all seized by the soldiers & are to be burned shortly. The Fellows of his College desire him to resign but he refuses. Mr. Massey fled on the Prince's landing.'

We can now turn to a letter from one of the resident Jesuit fathers in Oxford, Father Henry Pelham, *vere* Warren, to learn how total was the break-up of all Catholic interests, and how complete was the wreck of their hopes:—

'Oxford, 2d May, 1690.

Hond. Sir. You are desirous to know how things are with us in these troublesome times, since trade (religion) is so much decayed. I can only say that in the general decline of trade we have had our share. For before this time we were in a very hopeful way, for we had then public shops (chapels) open in Oxford. One did wholly belong to us, & good custom we had, viz. the University chapel (Univ. College); but now its shut up, the Master was taken & ever since in prison, & the rest forced to abscond. In Mag. Col. we had one good man in a good station & in time might have had more concern; but now all is blown over, & our master, Thomas Beckett, one evening was flung down in the kennel, trampled upon & had been killed, had not one, upon the noise come up with a candle. In Christ Church, though we have no man, yet the Master was reconciled by us & in a short time would have taken one (of the Society) but now he is fled & the shop shut up. In other places all were forced to fly & ever since to hide for fear of the law. Mr. Luson (Father Edward Levison) was so closely pursued that he was forced to quit his horse & by ways full of water & dirt to walk in his boots, twenty two hours together, sometimes up to his middle, so that before he could reach any place to rest in security the blood was settled in his feet. No rents are paid & worse things we expect, if some better settlement be not soon found out; of which we are still in some hope.

Converts 7; reconciled 36; baptized 43; general confessions 82; extreme unctions 45. Thus in short I have sent you what I know & am, honoured Sir,

Your very humble servant,

HENRY PELHAM¹.

¹ This letter is from the Public Record Office in Brussels (Carton u. xxxi, Varia. S. J.), printed in Foley's

Records, vol. v, and copied thence into *Magdalen College and James II*, O.H.S., p. 227.

THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

The opening of this century found our Catholic families almost at their lowest ebb of life. The stringent measures taken by the Government of William III to effectually put an end to any latent hopes of toleration, were more than sufficient to have entirely extinguished any lingering sparks of life among men less buoyed up by religious faith than our 'recusant' forefathers.

The life hitherto led by Catholic priests, which was to hold good for wellnigh four generations more, is well described by Dr. Oliver in his sympathetic little work¹. He tell us how

'formerly the missionary priests had no fixed abode, were fortunate to find an asylum where to rest their heads and contented with a bare subsistence.

The convenience of licensed places of worship with contiguous residences and regular stipends and schools for instructing their poor were unknown. In order to elude the vigilance of scouts and persecutors they had to make their rounds of the houses of the faithful under the cover of midnight darkness, they were necessitated to take different names, to disguise their persons, to submit to irksome solitude, in fine they were doomed to live in perpetual hazard of life and liberty. We rarely meet with their grave-stones to record where they rested from their earthly labours. Indeed many were driven to bury their departed brethren under the foundations of their own houses. The charitable zeal of these pastors may vie with the fervour of the primitive church. We cannot think of their perpetual dangers, privations, and sufferings without tears.'

And this after the terrors of the traitor's death were passed away. From the sheer obscurity of the situation our records of these years are very scanty, and, moreover, one fertile source of information fails us, as old Antony Wood was dead before the 'Revolution' took place. A report in the early part of the reign of William was drawn up for his information, giving the numbers of Papists over the age of sixteen in the Province of Canterbury. In the Diocese of Oxford, which then consisted of one county only, they numbered 358². In the spring (April) of 1700 an Act was passed entitled 'An Act for the further prevention of the growth of Popery.' By one provision of this Act, Roman Catholics were incapacitated from purchasing land, and if upon attaining the age of eighteen, landowners refused to take the oath required of them, their estates passed to the next Protestant heir.

¹ *Collections*, p. 24.

² See *Butler's Memoirs*, vol. iv, p. 253.

LISTS OF POPISH RECUSANTS IN OXFORDSHIRE, 1706 AND 1715.

The first list of Catholics in eighty parishes of this county appears to be a fragment of what may have been a general survey.

The names are 'presented' by the incumbent of each parish and sent to the Diocesan Registrar, Mr. Ben Cooper, 'near the Katherine Wheel' in Oxford¹. It is said that the report was required for the Bishop at a Visitation held in St. Mary Magdalen Church, but nothing certain seems to be known of its origin. The names are written upon odd half-sheets of note paper, and at present they are bound up in a book now known as *A. iii. Stonyhurst*. A few years ago, while Father Morris, S.J., was officiating at Oxford, these fly-sheets were shown to him by a gentleman² of the town; seeing their value Father Morris 'borrowed' them with the above result. The list has been printed by the Rev. Joseph Stevenson, S.J., in *10th Report Hist. MSS.*, App. iv.

A precisely similar list is kept at Woodstock, taken by order of the Duke of Marlborough as Lord Lieutenant of the County. It is complete for the whole county, with the exception of the Hundred of Bullingdon. The two lists have only one month between them³.

Ten years later (1715) another list by order of the Government was taken, known as Cozen's. It included the whole of England, and has been printed entire.

The names from these three lists are entered in this history as each parish occurs.

 GEORGE BERKELEY TO LORD P.⁴

'March 1, 1716-7. Rome.

Give me leave to inform you of a secret history that I learnt the other night from one who, I doubt not, knew the truth and I have reason to think told it to me. In England there are now 700 Clergymen in all, of the Church of Rome, of which 100 are Jesuits, 300 priests & the rest friars of several orders.

In Wales 50 Clergy, in the West 10, in the North 200, in London and

¹ The 'Katherine Wheel' was opposite the stile leading across St. Mary Magdalen churchyard, north of the church. Wood, *Life and Times*, vol. ii, p. 280.

² Mr. George Smith.

³ Mr. A. Ballard courteously allowed me to copy this Woodstock list in his office at Oxford.

⁴ *7th Report Hist. MSS.*, p. 240 a.

environs 20 Jesuits, 10 Benedictines, 5 Capuchins, 3 Carmelites. The priests have at least £8,000 a year terra firma in England, (some say) £30,000. The secular priests have £3,000 per annum. The number of Papists in England is 70,000.'

Whatever truth or perversion of truth there may be in the preceding paper some corroboration of the numbers is found in the following. The Rev. Joseph Berington gives, in his *View of the present number of Catholics in England* (1780), the number as 60,000.

'Excepting in the towns and in Lancashire the chief situation of Catholics is in the neighbourhood of the old families. Many are their servants and the children of servants who married from those families and who choose to remain round the old Mansion. The truth is during the present century we have most rapidly declined.

Many congregations have entirely disappeared in different parts, and in one district alone with which I am acquainted, 8 out of 13 are come to nothing, nor have any new ones risen up in any proportion to their loss.

In the Midland District there are about 90 Priests, 28 of whom are ex-Jesuits. There are now 14 places vacant. This District declines very fast, only 8,460 Catholics in the 16 counties, about two-thirds of what there were 30 or 40 years ago.'

In the MSS. of Charles Fleetwood Weston Underwood, Esq., Somerby Hall, Lincolnshire (1745, various dates), are to be found some particulars extracted from letters relating to Jesuits and the places at which they were officiating in England under the directions of Henry Sheldon (13½ pages). This statement concludes:—

'There are several letters from his brothers & sisters from Weston near Chipping-Norton in Oxfordshire, by which it appears that he has several Nieces either at school or in a Nunnery at Ghent & a Nephew or two there or thereabouts. There is reason to think from several of the letters that he goes a kind of visitation twice a year amongst the R. Cath. families dispersed about the Kingdom. The priests who write to him express themselves in the most humble terms, & all begin with Honrd. Sir.'

In Masiere Brady's *Episcopal Succession*, vol. iii, p. 212, we find:—

'Bishop Hornyold in a letter to the Propaganda, Sep. 17th, 1773, gave the following statistics for this Vicariate. . . .

Oxford. 550 Catholics—7 Missioners, 7 Oratories, this includes the whole county.'

¹ 10th Report Hist. MSS., App. i, p. 437, publ. 1885.

In Dr. 'Milner's Life' by Husenbeth, the Catholic Chapels and Incumbents in 1803 or thereabouts, were :—

Stonor Park,	
Hardwicke,	Rev. Sam: Corbishley.
Britwell,	
Enstone,	Rev. Francis Bishop.
Kiddington	Rev. Sam: Rock.
Oxford,	Rev. Charles Leslie.
Maple Durham,	Rev. Charles Le Febre.

NAMES OF THE OXFORDSHIRE GENTRY

who formed part of the 'Board of British Catholics,' instituted May, 1808¹.

Charles Earl of Shrewsbury.
 Charles Lord Dormer.
 Michael Blount, senr. and jun., of Maple Durham.
 William Fermor of Tusmore.
 Charles Browne-Mostyn of Kiddington.
 Thomas Stonor of Stonor.
 James Weld of Britwell.
 Robert Cox of Souldern.

This 'Board' was constituted to take the place of the Catholic Committee dissolved in 1791. Between these years, 1791 and 1808, the Catholics were without a point of union. A public subscription was solicited for the general benefit and the control thereof, to be committed to the members of the said Board. It remained in force until the year 1813.

ANTI-CATHOLIC MEETINGS.

'On Saturday, Oct. 31, a meeting of the Freeholders of the Co. of Oxford took place at the Town Hall, Oxford, for the purpose of considering the propriety of presenting a Petition to Parliament against the claims of the Roman Catholics of Ireland. The High Sheriff having opened the business, Mr. Coker moved a petition against the Catholic claims, which was seconded by Mr. Ashurst and supported by Mr. Lockhart. After some observations from Mr. Stratton, seconded by Lord F. A. Spencer, Mr. Browne-Mostyn, Colonel Curson, and Sir John Throckmorton, severally opposed the motion, but which was ultimately carried. . . . Mr. Browne-Mostyn in a letter addressed to the Freeholders maintains that the Petition could by no means be considered as the genuine sense of the county at large, there not being two hundred Freeholders present, and the notice of the meeting not having been generally made public².'

¹ From Butler's *Memoirs*, vol. ii.

² From *The Catholic Magazine*, by B. Johnson, December, 1812.

PART I. SECTION I

BANBURY, INCLUDING WARKWORTH AND OVERTHORPE

FAMILIES OF HOLMAN AND BRENT



NORTHERN DIVISION

BANBURY

BANBURY and its neighbourhood was for half a century after Henry the Eighth's death remarkable for its staunch adherence to the Old Faith. The teaching of Peter Martyr on the Eucharist at Oxford, where he occupied a professorial chair, roused the indignation of the parochial clergy, and from them it naturally spread among their flocks. In many parts of the country a great feeling of discontent was abroad, caused both by religious and social grievances. In many counties open rebellion ensued, but here in Oxfordshire a leader appears to have been lacking and the unrest did not come to a head. Nevertheless, Lord Gray de Wilton was entrusted by the Government in 1549 to suppress any signs of latent disaffection in the counties of Bucks., Northants, and Oxford, and for the 'execution of the evil disposed persons within the same counties.' Accordingly many arrests were made and the following names reported for punishment :—

'The names of the prisoners appointed and ordered to suffer:

John White of Combe, Richard Tompson, Vicar of Donstewe, to be hanged at Banbury.

Sir Henry Mathew, p'she p'st of Dedington, to be hanged at Deddington.

John Brookyns, a craftsman, to be hanged at Yslypp.

William Boolar, of Watlington, to be hanged at Watlington.

Too of the most sedicious to be hanged at Oxforthe.

Richard Whittington, of Deddington, weaver, to be hanged at Byssetor.

The Vicar of Cheping Norton, to be hanged there upon the steeple there.

John Wade, p'ishe p'ist of Bloxhame, to be hanged on the steple there. Bowldry of Haseley, to be hangyd at Oxford.'

Indorsed: 'Th order taken by the L. Graie with the gentilmen in Oxnford concerning the execution of certen trayterous p'sones there¹.'

On account of, and as a reward for, its Catholic sympathies, Queen Mary visited Banbury and erected the town into a borough, giving it a charter with mayor, aldermen, and town councillors, and the first mayor was Catholic. Later on, however, Puritanism gradually, but very slowly, extinguished the Faith in village and hamlet around Banbury. Many families still clung to the ancient religion, but the principal families, or many among them, were very far gone in Puritanism, and being in favour at Court, were not wanting in activity for the apprehension of Popish Recusants.

Both the Castles of Broughton and Banbury were honoured by their Catholic prisoners. In the years 1592 to 1598 there were eight Recusants in Banbury Castle². The following letter will show how they were dealt with:—

SIR ANTHONY COPE TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL³.

'1596, Dec. 10.

For the restraint of the Recusants in Banbury Castle, I have taken order that the house, with provision necessary, is ready whenever you send them into it. I have drawn myself also with my family to a house I have near unto Banbury, to attend your further pleasures. For their diet I have enquired the rates. The gentlemen paid weekly 12s. for their diet, and for their men 5s., which at that time was thought very small. They had officers to attend upon them, one of good credit in our absence to see their letters and to hear their conference with such as resorted to them. They had likewise a porter at the gate. These officers, being very necessary, had no allowance from them either for their diet or pains, inso-

¹ Copied in the Oxfordshire Archaeological Society's Report, 1890, *A History of the Chiltern Hundreds*, by the Rev. M. T. Pearman, M.A. Also printed in *Hist. of Reformation*, by R. W. Dixon, vol. iii, p. 67. Lord Gray de Wilton, with a troop of 1,300 men of foreign import, met the gentlemen of Oxfordshire at Witney, July 1, 1549; he appointed certain of them to see these executions carried out, viz. Sir Antony Coope, Kt., Sheriff; John Williams, Kt.; William Barrendyne, Kt.; Leonard Chamberlain, Esq.; Richard Fynes,

Esq.; William Fermor, Esq.; Sir John Brown, Kt.; Sargeant Pollard, Esq.; William Dormer, Esq.; Humphry Ashfelde, Esq.; John Crocker, Esq.; Vincent Power, Esq.; Thomas Gibbons, Esq.; John Denton, Esq.; Rafe Langstone, Esq.; John Ogle, Esq.; John Andrews, Esq. (*State Papers Domestic*, vol. viii, p. 33.)

² See 5th Report on Historical MSS., pp. 311-486, House of Lords MSS.

³ *Historical MSS.* (Lord Salisbury), part vi, p. 516, pub. 1895.

much as myself was enforced to consider the Porter out of mine own purse. Some consideration might be made by the gentlemen weekly for their chambers, which in my opinion might be converted to the maintenance of these officers, or such others as by you shall be thought fit for their better safekeeping.

‘From Hanwell, this 10th Dec. 1596.’

Endorsed, ‘For increase of allowance for the Recusants.’

1602. About this time the good folk of Banbury had become apt followers of their lords and vented their religious zeal upon their Town Cross. Foley¹ gives us the following example, without mentioning his reference:—

The inhabitants of Banbury being far gone in Puritanism, in a furious zeal tumultuously assailed the Cross that stood in their Market Place and so defaced it that scarcely left one stone upon another.

‘The Bishop of Canterbury therefore convented the chief actors before him and by circumstances discovering their riotous proceedings, both enjoined them to re-edify the same and bound them over to receive condign punishment before the Lords of the Star Chamber².’

A few years after the accession of James I, Sir A. Cope received several visits from him and his Queen, which were the signal for harrying the Recusants, several of whom were again confined in Banbury Castle, and about this time six ladies are reported as prisoners; these royal visits took place in 1605, 1614, and 1624³.

Elizabeth, Lady Stonor, was one of the six, and suffered long and severely. She at length obtained protection from Charles I, and was no longer interfered with⁴.

WARKWORTH

To this hotbed of religious zeal came, in 1629, Philip Holman, a scrivener from London, probably himself not averse to the same ideas, and purchased from the old family of Chetwode the estate and castellated mansion of Warkworth, including the manor of

¹ *Records*, vol. i, p. 8.

² Beesley, *History of Banbury*, p. 160, mentions the destruction of all the Crosses in Banbury in 1602, and some accounts in the Corporation Book, entitled ‘Charges about the Suyt of the Cross,’ point to the legal proceedings.

See *State Trials*, vol. i, p. 386, Proceedings taken in the Star Chamber against Henry Sherfield.

³ See Nichols’s *Royal Progresses*, and Beesley’s *History of Banbury*, p. 260.

⁴ See our account of Stonor.

Grimsbury, for which he paid £14,000. Of his two sons the elder, George, became a Catholic; John, the second, sat in Parliament for Banbury for several years, and was created a baronet in 1663, dying without issue male in 1700.

With George Holman our history proceeds. During his father's lifetime he made a tour on the Continent, with the result of his change of convictions, and Antony à Wood, in his gossiping Diary¹, tells us that in April, 1659, he visited Philip Holman at Warkworth and 'found his eldest son and heir, lately returned from his travels, had changed his religion for that of Rome (wherein he had become reconciled to the church of Rome) and seemed to be a melancholy and bigotted convert.' This remark will not surprise any reflecting person. What might be expected? A recent convert, fresh from the religious atmosphere of Rome, brought face to face with a Puritan father and all the troubles and annoyances in social life which so severely tried the endurance of old and trusty Catholic families!

Apparently finding the neighbourhood of Banbury uncongenial to his feelings, he went abroad again and passed about thirty years in Paris, during which time his father died and was buried in Warkworth Church, 1669. His home interests in the meanwhile were watched over by his brother John. In connexion with Oates's Plot the names of Northampton Papists were reported to the House of Lords, and George Holman was amongst them².

John Holman, answering for his brother, said 'that he knew not that his brother George Holman was a Papist; but that he was abroad in Paris and had been so for thirty years. He had often heard George express his hatred to the Jesuits.' It was then ordered that George Holman should be left out of the Bill. While in Paris he must have associated with the best of the Jacobite party of English, and found a wife in the youngest daughter of the widowed Lady Stafford. William Howard, Lord Stafford, had suffered an unjust death on Tower Hill in 1680, leaving his widow and six children. Lady Stafford, Baroness Stafford in her own right, was created Countess of Stafford in 1688, for her lifetime, when her son received the rank of Earl, forfeited by the death of his father, and her children were allowed the title of an Earl's children.

George Holman was about fifty-six years of age when he married

¹ *Life and Times*, vol. i, p. 276.

² *11th Report Historical MSS.*, App. ii, p. 228, Dec. 1680.

Lady Anastasia Howard, which would be about the year 1687. Dryden wrote a sonnet upon this occasion. There were nine children to their marriage, which only lasted about ten years, and from the dates it would appear that Mr. and Lady Anastasia Holman were living at Warkworth during the time. Mr. Holman died in 1698, in the sixty-eighth year of his age, and was buried in the church.

William, the eldest son, being about ten years old, was very soon sent abroad for his education¹, and his mother dwelt at Warkworth, dispensing an openhanded hospitality to rich and poor. Mr. George Holman was known at home and abroad for his munificence in the cause of charity; his house at Warkworth was a refuge for priests, and many an unfortunate family persecuted for conscience' sake was saved from starvation by his generosity and that of his widow and son. By his help the Seminary at Paris was put upon a surer foundation, and many a Church student owed his education to him.

William Holman, who had been educated at Douai, returned to live at Warkworth, where he married twice, but died without issue in 1740, aged fifty-two. Mr. Holman's first wife was a German lady; she is buried in Warkworth Church. The second wife was daughter of Mr. Henry Wells of Brambridge, near Winchester; she became Lady Browne².

Lady Anastasia died in 1719, aged seventy-three, but finding no memorial of her in the church, we may infer that she died abroad. One of her daughters, Anne, who was only three years old at her father's death, married her first cousin, the second Earl of Stafford, and had an only son, William Matthias, third earl, and three daughters, one of whom married the Count de Chabot, and two others, Anastasia and Anne, were nuns.

'The right honble Lady Anastasia (Mary Ursula) Stafford, daughter of Will, 2nd Earl of Stafford, by his wife Anne, d. of George Holman of Warkworth, professed 19th March 1740; chosen Abbess 3rd June 1773, and continued by re-election 3rd June 1776³.'

From the Convent Obituary:—

'On the 27 April, 1807, died at Paris our venerable dear mother Mary Ursula in the 85th year of her age and the 67th of her religious profession.

¹ For his school-life, see *Gillow's Dict.*

² See Kiddington.

³ 'Brief History of the English Convent at Paris of Blue Nuns,' from *Archæologia*, p. 203, read Feb. 14, 1839.

Mother Ursula was deprived of her mother at a very early age of infancy. She went with her two sisters, attended by her nurse, to the school at Hammersmith, and at six years of age, her elder sister being eight and the other three, they went over to the Convent of Poor Clares at Rouen, to be brought up in their school. . . . In her thirteenth year, July 1735, she was placed with her younger sister in our school, the Earl of Stafford being desirous his daughters should be brought up under the tuition of their aunt, his sister. She remained at Paris, and at eighteen years of age became a nun. When the nuns were turned out at the French Revolution she retired to the house of "Les Filles Orphelines" in Paris until her death, 27th April, 1807.

Lady Anne Stafford, sister to the above, made her profession in the same Convent, 18 April 1743, and died 6th May 1792, being buried in the garden of the Cloister on the left side of the Cross.'

Sir Will Howard, 2nd Earl of Stafford, died in the house of the Augustinian nuns, at Paris (Rue Fossé-Saint-Victor), on Jan. 17, 1734. He was on a visit to his sister, Mrs. Plowden, and was taken ill of an apoplectic fit in the Convent parlour, where he died. He was buried in the nuns' choir. He had two sisters, nuns in the Benedictine house in the Rue du Champ d'Alouette, now at Colwich. His wife (Anne Holman) predeceased him, and was buried beside her father in Warkworth Church, aged 29, in 1725.

Among the 'Blue Nuns' of the Rue Charenton at the time of the French Revolution was Anastasia Stafford, aged 73 at that time¹. She was one of the nuns sent as hostages into the Augustinian Convent by the ruling powers of the day.

The eldest daughter of George Holman and Lady Anastasia married Thomas Eyre, Esq., of Hassop, and had two sons, Rowland and Francis. Mrs. Eyre appears to have had a long life and finished it at Warkworth, where she was buried in 1759. Her brother William Holman, being childless, bequeathed his estates to her sons and to the son of his sister, Anne Lady Stafford. Rowland Eyre may have died young, as no mention is made of him in the final settlement. The disposal of the estates is thus set out in Baker's *Northants* :—

'William Matthias, 3rd Earl of Stafford, who inherited in right of his mother, sold his moiety of his estates to his uncle, Thomas Eyre Esq., in April 1746, for the sum of £15,656 16s. 2½d., and Mr. Eyre at once, jointly with his wife, settled the whole property on their only younger son Francis Eyre, Esq. The son of this last named sold Warkworth the year after he came into possession of it, 1073 acres.'

¹ See book by Abbé Cédoz, mentioned in these papers under Bampton, and also our notes on Shiplake.

Mr. Francis Eyre married Lady Mary Radclyffe, daughter of the Countess of Newburgh and of Charles, third son of the 2nd Earl of Derwentwater, who was beheaded in the Stuart cause in 1746¹. Lady Mary, born at Rome, 1733, married at St. George's, Hanover Square, Feb. 1755; becoming the heiress to her brother, the title of Newburgh was taken by her son and his children, though the propriety of this assumption has been disputed.

Francis Eyre was the author of several controversial works, and amongst others of a pamphlet silencing his neighbour, the Rev. Mr. Churton, Vicar of Middleton Cheney.

Mr. Eyre had a daughter Mary, the wife of Arthur Onslow, who is buried in the church at Warkworth, and a son Francis, who inherited the estate, and in 1814 assumed the title of 5th Earl of Newburgh. Lady Mary died in 1798, and is buried in the same church. Mr. Francis Eyre, her husband, spent the latter part of his life in London, marrying Miss Sarah Hernon, and dying in 1804 was buried in Warkworth church, aged 72, the stone 'being erected by his widow Sarah Eyre.'

Now comes the end of the history of Catholic Warkworth, for Francis Eyre the second lost no time after his accession to the property in dismantling and destroying the old house. He removed² all the stained glass and the Stafford pictures to his seat, Hassop Hall, Derbyshire, pulled down the house, selling it piecemeal in 1806³, and then proceeded to sell the land.

The destruction of Warkworth Castle was deeply regretted by the county; it was so complete that nothing remains upon the site except the greensward and some fragments built into the wall of a cottage. The old Castle occupied three sides of a square, and stood upon an eminence near the church, which commands extensive views over the northern parts of Oxfordshire⁴. An elevation sketch of the house is still preserved in the Presbytery at Banbury, with a plan of the estate.

After the sale of the Warkworth estate we find it divided into four parts, all held by Catholics, whose names are of constant occurrence in the Mission Register, viz. Elizabeth Rider, Robert Taylor, William

¹ For Derwentwater and Newburgh, see *Complete Peerage*, and *Foster's Peerage*, 1883.

² *Foley's Records*, vol. iv, p. 625, in

a letter from Mr. Stephen Leslie to the author.

³ Baker's *Northants*, p. 739.

⁴ Beesley's *Banbury*, p. 481.

Barrett, and Richard Judd. These were probably the same divisions and the same tenants as held before the sale¹.

Taylor was probably of the same family as Taylor of Godington. Many years previous to this, Dr. Plot mentions William Taylor of Warkworth as famous for his bee-keeping².

At Radford, among the Mission papers we find:—

‘Mrs. Elizabeth Rider, late of Overthorpe, widow, died 1st Nov. 1825: Executors:—Rev. Sam. Rock and J. Perry of Banbury. She left a legacy to the Rev. Peter Hersent, priest at Warkworth and at Overthorpe, of £60, and mentions her brother’s children, Batchelor.’

Cosin’s *List*, drawn up in 1715–16, gives us, in co. Hereford:—

‘William Holman of Warkworth, co. Northants. Seised for life of a moiety of the ancient decayed Castle and advowson of Huntington.

Anne Holman, Spinster. Her moiety of foregoing estate, she registering all the same manors and lands exactly as the said William Holman. Each half £375 11s. 9½d.

Also houses in London, entailed with remainder upon his brother Charles, £449.

In Oxfordshire, “Entailed estate at Mixbury, etc., £496.”

In Hampshire, “Entailed estate at Stoke Charity, £204.”

In Surrey, “Estate in parish of St. Mary Mag., Bermondsey, £87.

In Northants, “Estate at Warkworth, Chalcombe, entailed with remainder to his brother Charles, £1,915 8s. 5d.”³’

The Holmans also had the Manor of Ardley-cum-Fewcote, formerly belonging to Pope of Deddington⁴.

VERTHORPE

For one hundred and fifty years Warkworth Castle had been the centre around which the Catholics for many miles, both from Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire, had rallied, and its owner’s family was not only respected for their generous hospitality, but also strove not to hide their light under a bushel; for among the many priests and controversialists residing with them was the Rev. Mr. Gother, well known for his sermons and books of devotion, and under his tuition grew up Richard Challoner, the future illustrious Bishop. Mr. Eyre himself was a writer of no mean powers.

¹ See the map and plan still kept at Banbury Presbytery. The sale is mentioned in *Notes and Queries*, vol. xii, 5th Series, p. 276.

² *Natural History*, p. 186.

³ See Payne’s *Non-Jurors*.

⁴ See Manor Rolls of Ardley. Anne Holman became later Lady Stafford.

Now the time had come for dissolving the old centre and finding a new one. As we have seen, the house was pulled down and the estate sold in 1806. The domestic chapel in the Castle continued in use until Mr. Eyre's death in 1804, when the Executors gave notice of the impending change; the first record of the change occurs in M. Hersent's¹ journal under June, 1805, 'Wine was begun to be taken for the chapel.' No doubt that Mr. Eyre, jun., had made provision for the priest until a new chapel could be provided; this was built by Mr. Eyre in 1806 at Overthorpe, two miles from Banbury.

We read in Baker's *Northants* (p. 746) that the chapel at Overthorpe was 43 feet long by 14 feet 3 inches wide. A priest's house and garden, and a graveyard, upon the other side of the road, were also provided². This chapel continued in use until 1838, when the present church was built in Banbury, and then the chapel was pulled down and the site, with the priest's house and burial-ground, was sold to Mr. Alfred Craddock for £140, the interest of this money being paid by the diocese of Northampton to the Rector of St. John's, Banbury, until July, 1888, when the payment ceased.

PRIESTS AT WARKWORTH, OVERTHORPE, AND BANBURY.

From the time of Philip Holman's purchase of this estate in 1629 until the sale in 1806, priests had never been wanting for the help of the faithful round Warkworth. Tradition tells us that many priests were sheltered here, but very few names have reached us, and among these only one Jesuit, although Warkworth was one of the 'Missions' included in Father Richard Blount's list as belonging to the Society. Of Franciscans we have many names, and indeed it would appear as if there had been a recognized rallying-point for the Order at Warkworth.

The Rev. John Gother, well known by his spiritual works, spent the latter part of his life here. Some years before his death, Mrs. Challoner³ came to Warkworth in the capacity of housekeeper, bringing her young son Richard with her⁴. They were both received into the Church by Mr. Gother, and as soon as Richard was old enough he was sent to Douai College, in July, 1704. Mr. Gother started upon a journey to the English College at Lisbon, which he was not destined to reach alive; he died upon the voyage on October 2,

¹ Hersent is still pronounced *Harsent* by the people.

² Notes by the Rev. C. Bowen.

³ We find the Bishop using the alias of 'Fisher.' Was that her name?

⁴ The future well-known Bishop.

1704, and contrary to the usual custom of burial at sea, his body was taken on to Lisbon and there interred¹.

The next name we meet here as Chaplain is that of Mr. Taverner, *alias* Banister, who retired to Warkworth and died here in 1745. Mr. Taverner had been Master of the Catholic School near Winchester, founded at Silksteed, under the Rev. Augustine Taylor, the first Master, upon whose death it was removed to Twyford about 1692—the only Catholic school which survived the Revolution. Whilst Mr. Taverner governed the school, Alexander Pope, the future poet, was among his pupils. Pope had begun his schooling under Thomas Deane, M.A. (for whom see ‘Introductory Chapter’ of this work), of University College, who set up at Marylebone and Hyde Park Corner; owing to his writing a satire upon his master, punishment ensued, ending in Pope’s removal from the school and his change to Twyford. In the year 1734 Twyford School had fallen into difficulties, and the house being mortgaged to Mr. Holman, the master retired to Warkworth and there ended his days².

Several Franciscan Friars filled the post of Chaplain at Warkworth. Between the death of Mr. Gother and the arrival of Mr. Taverner we find the name of Father Bonaventure Charles Bedingfield, O.S.F. He is mentioned here in 1740, and died at Douai in 1782. The six years’ interval between the death of Taverner in 1745 and the coming of the Rev. Alban Butler in 1751 was probably covered by the presence of some Franciscan Father. The Rev. Alban Butler, the author of the *Lives of the Saints*, was one of the family of Butler from Aston le Walls, whose heiress had married Francis Plowden of Shiplake, and carried the estate to him. Being probably in straitened circumstances as a cadet branch of the family, Mr. Holman defrayed the expenses of his education at Douai. After many years spent upon various missions, Alban Butler came to Warkworth, where it is said that he wrote a great part of his voluminous works. Probably he gave his time to writing and study, perhaps not being so much required for missionary work, more particularly as the Franciscans appear to have been so strong here. How long he remained here is not known³.

Next follows Father Thomas Hall, O.S.F., *alias* Lorain or Laurence, who served Warkworth in 1758. He died in England in 1784. In 1764

¹ See *Gillow's Dict.*

² See *St. Edmund's College*, by the Very Rev. Bernard Ward, p. 7, and *History of Sedgely Park School*, by the

Rev. F. C. Husenbeth, p. 5.

³ For Alban Butler, see *Gillow's Dict.*, and *Foley's Records*, vol. iv.

came Father Bernard Cassidy, *alias* or *vere* Stafford¹. Previous, but for how long we are not told, to 1790, Father Kemble served this mission; he went to Tusmore in that year. In 1802 the Abbé Hersent took charge. From this synopsis we are led to conclude that the 'Mission' was a head house for the Franciscans, and that such other names as confront us can only be looked upon as occasional visitors².

The old Confirmation book³ tells us that in 1772 a few persons from Warkworth were confirmed at Hardwick, in 1791 a few more went to Brailes; and in 1788 again, this time to Tusmore.

We now come to the only Jesuit name preserved to us, Father Bernard Cassidy (*alias* or *vere* Stafford). He was born in Ireland in 1713, and in 1735 entered the Society at Watten in Flanders. After studying his Theology he was ordained and sent upon the English Mission. He officiated in London from 1746 to 1754; then at Oxburgh, whence he removed to the Residence of St. Mary, Oxfordshire, of which he became Superior in 1771. In 1764 and subsequent years he resided at Warkworth, and finally at Dorchester and Thame Park, at which latter place he died in 1778⁴.

After this we meet in the *Diary of Mr. Hersent* the three following names, probably Franciscans, each of which appears once in the Baptismal Register:—

'8th Oct. 1798. The Rev. Mr. Devoin.

29th April 1800. The Rev. Mr. Fitto.

2nd Jan. 1802. Joanne Mariæ, Misso Ap.'

L'ABBÉ HERSENT⁵.

We have been able to glean but little concerning the previous Chaplains of Warkworth, but now we are on firm ground, and for thirty years are able to time day by day the comings and goings of the good and genial Frenchman who elected to end his days in these rural Midlands.

'M. l'Abbé Pierre Julien Hersent was a French "émigré" priest, Canon of

¹ See below under Dorchester and Thame.

² For all notices here of the Franciscans see *Franciscans in England*, by F. Thaddeus, pp. 182, 200, 268.

³ Kindly lent to the Authoress in 1900 by the Right Rev. Dr. Ilsley.

⁴ Foley's *Records*, vol. iv, p. 625.

⁵ The extracts given below are derived from manuscript notes by the Rev. C. J. Bowen, who has collected and arranged everything of importance which could be obtained from the Old Journal. The Journal is now in the 'Archivium' of Banbury.

Coutances, a town in Normandy. The probabilities are that being a Norman, he spent some time at the house at Reading provided for the Norman priests by the Government. Likely it was that he then became acquainted with the family at Warkworth. In 1802 the great majority of the émigrés returned to France, but some few chose to work in the vineyard in England. Three or four were stationed in Oxfordshire. It would appear that Canon Hersent had started upon his return journey when he made up his mind to accept the Chaplaincy of Warkworth and the cure of souls in about forty neighbouring villages. Evidently the Eyres were not then resident; if they had been there he would not have left the Castle for so many months. Let us hear his own story told by his own pen and set down, intermingled with his prayers and self-examinations, upon quires of thick-ribbed note paper. He begins:—"Anno Dni. 1802 being Wednesday Dec. 23rd I came from London to Warkworth (*sic*) where I lived in the Castle until the beginning of the following Lent, at which time went to live in Banbury, Oxfordshire, at Mrs. Munton's, White Lion Street (now High Street). Here I lived till the 26th of March of the next following year, 1804, and on that Sunday, 26 March, I came to live at Warkworth¹."

The following October Mr. Eyre died in London, and in 'June we began to take wine for the altar.' Then were the last masses said in the Castle while the new Chapel was building, and in October, 1806, the altar and furniture were removed to their new resting-place.

'The Chapel of Overthorpe opened and blessed on Sunday the 12th Oct. . . . The congregation present were, Mr. John Batchelor, yeoman of Middleton Cheney; Miss Elizabeth Rider of Overthorpe; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Perry of Neithrop; Mr. and Mrs. Gramshaw (also spelled in Register, Grimshaw) of Middleton Cheney; Mr. Jennings; William and Sam Sole, and families; Mr. and Mrs. Gardner; the Betts family of Boddington; Mr. and Mrs. Miller of Shotteswell; Henry and John Griffin; two Moreby families; Mrs. Hatley of Shutford, etc. After the Asperges the "Come let us adore" would be audibly recited in French accents by the Pastor, clad in alb and white stole, every voice would be upraised for the response "Let us adore the Lord of Glory"; Gother's long prayer would be said while the candles were lighted, and then the Mass itself begun amidst the profoundest silence. It was the feast of St. Wilfrid, the Anglo-Saxon prelate and pilgrim to the Apostolic See. The Mass ended and the sermon preached, all would leave the chapel, and after hearty greetings and mutual good wishes and inquiries, would wend their way homewards to their family dinners and afternoon lectures from their old friends Gother or Challoner, and this unchanging routine was followed for well nigh thirty

¹ *Le Clergé français émigré, réfugié en Angleterre. Chanoine F. Plasse.* At Maple-Durham, Abbé Charles Lefèvre de Rouen. At Warkworth, Abbé Pierre

Hersent de Coutances. At Oxford, Abbé Sénéchal d'Amiens; he died at Oxford and was buried in the cemetery at St. Clement's (q. v.).

years. From Banbury, across the river, along the east side of the Cherwell and up a deep muddy lane, runs the "Causeway" to the foot of the hill, up which these faithful old Catholics toiled on Sunday mornings wet or fine, for "was not the Causeway made for the Catholics?" thus literally fulfilling the injunction of their old friend Challoner, who tells them to approach their Chapel as though they were going to Mount Calvary¹.

So things went on for some years without any noteworthy event until October 18, 1824. 'On this night the chapel was robbed,' . . . 'great profanation,' . . . 'mending the chapel,' . . . 'all these days cleaning and putting the chapel in order.' An iron chest and sacred vessels were then subscribed for, and on several succeeding dates M. Hersent says Mass for 'those who have given the Iron Chest.'

The relics of the Overthorpe Chapel preserved at Banbury are:—The altar and tabernacle with frontal of stamped Spanish leather, the old altar-piece, the 'Entombment,' by A. Carracci², the chalice silver gilt, to be taken into two portions for easy concealment, a green silk embroidered chalice veil, all in the sacristy, and the Holy water stoup, now in the crypt of the church. Besides these a beautiful pyx for visiting the sick, in the form of a small ciborium and with the knop of the stem contrived to hold the Holy oils; also many old books, and the brass sundial from Warkworth Castle.

Dr. Milner visited and confirmed at Warkworth and Overthorpe in 1806; September, 1815; and in October, 1820.

In 1826, November 23, the foundation-stone of the Chapel at Aston-le-Walls was laid, and it was opened July 11, 1827. M. l'Abbé Hersent was instrumental in procuring this new foundation.

A separate Mission in Banbury was then projected, and the entry for May 28, 1828, the 'New Mission in Banbury' is first mentioned: 'June 2, Monday, Mass for the success of the Banbury Mission'; and 'August 12, Tuesday, opening of the Lecture Room at Banbury.' About this time it would appear that the Rev. J. Fox came to the place, and for about three years he must have worked under l'Abbé Hersent.

In addition to the neighbouring villages, l'Abbé Hersent also attended to the wants of the Irish soldiers at Weedon Barracks. This was one of the few excursions mentioned in his Diary; another took him to

¹ See *Garden of the Soul*, instructions before Mass.

² A remark is made in Mazière Brady, vol. iii, that 'the altar-pieces of Catholic

chapels were usually of this subject, as pictures of saints might provoke popular remark.'

the Wolverhampton Meeting of clergy; once he goes to Mr. Rock's at Radford to 'bury old Daniel,' and Christmas Eve, 1830, saw him journey across country to Hardwick to administer the last rites to the Rev. Mr. Corbishley, whom he buried in his own graveyard at Overthorpe.

Age and infirmities were creeping on, and on February 20, 1832, occurs the last entry of an intention for Mass; and in a few days he records saying his Rosary in lieu of Office, and by the end of the month the journal closes. He lingered on until July 27, 1833, and was laid to rest on August 2.

The Abbé is said to have been 'a short, round man, with a remarkably good-natured genial countenance; he was universally beloved by the children, who waylaid him on his walks, and a poor person could never be passed without an alms, so that his housekeeper, Mary Sole, was perforce obliged to keep the purse. The following extract from the *Catholic Magazine*, Sept. 1833, p. xxxii, will show the public estimation in which he was held:—

'Died the 27th July, the Rev. Peter Hersent, having been 28 years and upwards a zealous Pastor to the Catholics of Overthorpe and neighbourhood: through whose exertions a Congregation was collected at Aston-le-Walls, whose members induced Edmund Plowden Esqre to erect them a chapel, a house for a priest, and to endow the same.

He was buried on the morning of August 2nd in the chapel at Overthorpe, where after Mass an impressive discourse was delivered by the Rev. P. Heffernan, &c. &c.

When in his prosperity, out of his salary from Lord Newburgh¹ and an allowance from the French Government (Mr. Heffernan stated in his sermon), his charities were not confined to Catholics but extended to Protestants and Dissenters. He was much respected by the latter in Banbury.'

At present a monumental brass is fixed in front of the altar rails in Banbury Church over the spot in the crypt where now lie his remains, removed from Overthorpe. The inscription runs thus:—

'In the most holy name of Jesus pray for the soul of the Rev. Peter Hersent sometime Priest of the Holy Catholic Church at Overthorpe who died the xxvii day of July in the year of our Lord mdcccxxxiii.'

¹ Francis Eyre, the 2nd; he assumed the title in 1814.

BANBURY

The Register for Banbury proper begins in 1832, October 3, written by Mr. Fox on separate sheets, and collected and pasted together by Dr. Tandy.

The thirty years' unobtrusive labours of the venerable old Missionary bore their fruits, but he himself did not live to see them. In August, 1833, land was bought for the projected church in Banbury, the first pastor, the Rev. J. Fox, having already been about three years on the spot¹. The Church of St. John in South Bar Street is built close to the ancient Preceptory of St. John of Jerusalem. It was begun in 1835 and completed in 1838. It is built in a rather debased style of Gothic, the designs originally given by Mr. Derick, but apparently not altogether adhered to. The tower is about 102 feet high, and forms a conspicuous object in the landscape. After the completion of this church, the bodies which had been buried at Warkworth or Overthorpe were removed thither; among them were several persons buried in brown Franciscan habits. There were four cartloads of bones brought, and placed in the crypt. These habits, I am told, are still rolled up in the vaults, no doubt relics of the old Franciscan chaplains.

The Rev. Joseph Fox died December 10, 1835. Tombstone in the church.

The succeeding priests in this Mission have been:—

1838. Dr. William Tandy (canon), educated at the English College, Rome.

1864. The Rev. Joseph Henry Souter, M.R., R.D.

1873. The Rev. Charles Bowen, Missionary Rector, R.D., whom God prosper! Arrived July 26, 1873.

1896. The Rev. George Dolman, as assistant, September 24.

BRENT FAMILY.

This family formed a very numerous connexion in the seventeenth century in the counties surrounding Oxfordshire. Their original stem appears to have settled at Cossington, co. Somerset, but younger branches established themselves at Thrupp-juxta-Kidlington, and at Larkstoke, co. Gloucester or Warwick, which branch remained Catholic. They were well known to Government and were employed in matters legal and diplomatic by the Catholic party.

Larkstoke is a hamlet of Ilmington, Warwickshire, and belonged to

¹ See Beesley's *Banbury*, p. 557.

the Brents when Atkins wrote his history. In 1779 it had 'been lately sold'.

Wood² says that 'William Brent was born at Larkstoke, co. Gloucester, he was brought up by the Jesuits at St. Omer's, and was entered at Gray's Inn. He served as a lawyer under the Earl of Strafford in Ireland, and suffered much for his religion by fines and imprisonments. For some years he lived privately at Foxcote, and died in London, near Little Turnstile, May 21, 1691, aged 80 or more.'

His nephew Robert suffered under suspicion from the Government.

1689. Feb. 28. 'Proclamation for the discovery and apprehension of Robert Brent, gent.'³

1689. Gentlemen in France with King James. 'Mr. Robert Brent, hath a good estate here. . . . Dr. Conquest's brother. . . . The two Mr. Sheldons. . . . etc.'⁴

A reward of £200 was offered for the apprehension of Mr. Robert Brent, and his wife Mrs. Catherine Brent was actually thrown into prison; he had been much employed by the Government⁵.

In the general raid upon Catholics after the accession of William and Mary to the throne, this family fell in for their share of trouble. They were living at the time in London.

'Whitehall, Aug. 13. Warrant to apprehend Mrs. Brent and her maid-servant and Mr. Netterville and all suspicious persons found in Mr. Netterville's house in Lincoln's Inn Fields, on suspicion of high treason⁶.

Whitehall, Aug. 27. Warrant to the keeper of the Gatehouse, Westminster, to permit Mrs. Anne Brent to come and remain with her mother Mrs. Catherine Brent, a prisoner, provided she does not go abroad⁷.

Whitehall, Oct. 27. Petition of Richard Ree, gent., shows that he is a Protestant and heir-at-law to Richard Ree who in 1662 died *s. p.* having first made a lease of his house and lands of the value of £30 per ann. to Mrs. Anne Brent for 21 years; after the expiration of said term petitioner was hindered by the said Mrs. Anne Brent under pretence of a deed, never heard of before, supposed to be made by the said Richard Ree to persons in trust for the English nuns at Cambay, which deed the petitioner believes to be but a device contrived by Mr. Robert Brent, then in great power, having since offered petitioner 100 guineas for his title thereunto.

Referred to the Treasury⁸.

¹ Rudder's *Gloucestershire*, p. 617.

² *Athenae*, vol. iii, col. 517.

³ *State Papers Domestic*, 1689-90, p. 10.

⁴ *Ib.* p. 376.

⁵ Payne's *Non-Jurors*, p. 67, quoting from Luttrell, vol. i.

⁶ *State Papers Domestic*, 1690-1, p. 96.

⁷ *Ib.* p. 108.

⁸ *Ib.* p. 553.

Whitehall, Jan. 13, 1692. Passes for Mrs. Margaret Brent and Mrs. Mary Brent and Anne Waters their servant, to go to Flanders¹.

In Cosin's *List*, 1715-16, occurs the following:—

‘Elizabeth Conquest
Margaret Brent
Mary Brent
Frances Brent
Dame Anne Lyrcott

Each one-fifth share in the Estate of Robert Brent, their father—
£16 6s. 7½d. Each £3 5s. 4d.—Fee Farm Rents out of Banbury.’

These five sisters are entered also for Berks., Bucks., Cambridge, Gloucester, Northants, and Worcestershire. There seems to have been a sixth (who may have died before her father), Mrs. Bartlett.

Robert Brent of Banbury married Catherine (Heywood), and apparently left no male issue. Of his six daughters (1) Elizabeth, was the wife of Dr. Charles Conquest, M.D., who was a well-known physician of his day.

The College of Physicians, London, in 1679, issued an Order for the dismissal of all members who had not signed or taken the Oath of Allegiance to William III; two years later they returned a list to the House of Lords of those among them who were obnoxious.

1689. July 1. ‘List returned by the College to the House of Lords of Papists, reputed Papists and criminals.—Papists: John Betts, M.D.; Sir William Walgrave; Charles Conquest, M.D.; Ferdinando Mendez, M.D.; Edward Betts, M.D. Criminals or reputed criminals: Robert Gray, M.D.; John Elliot, M.D.’²

At his death Dr. Conquest was described as of St. Paul's, Covent Garden; he died in 1693³. His wife survived him fifty years. ‘Dr. Charles Conquest was buried in the Church of SS. Peter and Paul at Bath, September 20, 1693⁴.’ Wood has the subjoined epitaph on ‘Don Quixote,’ *alias* Dr. C. Conquest⁵.

AN EPITAPH ON DON QUICKSOT,
alias Dr. Charles Conquest, who died at Bath in Sep. 1693.
(By a Quaker.)

Don Quixot, from a mushroom grown
A Man of Might and high Renown,

¹ *State Papers Domestic*, 1691-2, p. 97.

² *Oliver's Collections*, p. 70.

³ *Payne's Records of English Catholics*, p. 18.

⁴ *Wood's Life and Times*, vol. iii, p. 431.

⁵ See Bodleian MSS., Wood, 429 (fol. 52), a book of printed sheets.

Made Banter upon all he met,
 Until his shamming Sun was set.
 Many Rencounters Quitesot had,
 Some jocular and some stark mad;
 Whimsies enough did fill the pate.
 But his grand Talent was to prate;
 Wou'd jest, invent and utter news,
 And bawdily his Tongue could use.
 Windmills good store were in his head,
 And Maggots, some alive, some dead;
 One greater than the rest there was
 Declar'd Great Don a silly Ass,
 A Windmil's Fan, the Man he mist,
 He took for his Antagonist;
 Then couching, pushing, with his might
 He thought to kill this Errant Knight;
 Yet tho' he pusht with might and main,
 No blood was drawn, but Maggot-brain
 Made Don appear a Fopp again;
 Who rather than to want a Vaper,
 Resolv'd to Bathe to cut a caper,
 Till bantring, jesting, sotting death,
 Made bold at last to stop his breath;
 Laid icy hands on his hot Head,
 Left Sot and Quick among the Dead.
 Finis.

By Tho. Guidot a phisitian of Bath.

Payne¹ says he died of a fever induced by drinking strong wine immediately after the use of the hot baths, and is entered in the burial register of the Abbey as a 'stranger.'

(2) Anne Brent married Lytcot. In her will she is described as of Larkstoke, co. Glo'ster. The will is dated 1725, proved April, 1738; she desires burial at St. Pancras if she die in London, and names her son, Robert Brent Lytcot. In 1747 administration was granted to Elizabeth, widow of Robert Brent Lytcot, to the estate of Dame Anne Lytcot, late of St. Giles' in the Fields, but at Paris in the kingdom of France. From this it would appear that Anne died in Paris.

(3) Margaret Brent lived in London, and at one time Dr. Challoner the Bishop lodged with her; she had probably known him at Warkworth. In her will she bequeaths him £200².

(4) Mary Brent is mentioned as of St. Andrew's, Holborn.

¹ *Non-Jurors*, p. 67.

² *Payne's Records of Eng. Cath.*

(5) Frances Brent, we learn from Payne¹, was of the parish of St. George, in Red Lion Fields, London, and died in, or made her will in, 1738, bequeathing £200 to Bishop Challoner.

Payne also speaks of another daughter, Catherine, and of a brother Falcatus.

(6) Catherine married Thomas Bartlett, brother to Rowland Bartlett, of Hill-End, Worcestershire.

Mrs. Catherine Brent, the mother of the above sisters, died in Gloucestershire. She left £100 to her very good friend, Gilbert Whitehall of London, goldsmith, as a grateful acknowledgement of the trouble he has taken in her family affairs. He was buried with all the above family in old St. Pancras. What relation, if any, he was to the Brent family, does not appear; he was a devoted friend and possibly relation of Mrs. Brent. When and where Robert Brent died and was buried, I have not found.

The following epitaph is in the churchyard of St. Pancras:—

✠ This tomb was erected for Gilbert Whitehall, late of Yeldesley in Derbyshire, Gent., whose body lieth here. He dyed 20th Feb. A.D. 1709. R. I. P. ✠ Here also lyeth Catherine Brent, widow of Robert Brent of Larkstoke, Glostershire, Esqre, dyed 18th Dec. 1706. Removed hither. R. I. P. ✠ Also the body of Mary Brent, dyed Sep. 1724, aged 63. ✠ Also Margaret Brent, died Nov. 1737, aged 78. ✠ Also Elizabeth Conquest, widow of Charles Conquest, M.D., died March 1748, aged 78. Requiescant in Pace. Amen².

Memoirs of the Family de Poly; with a narrative of the Life of Antoinette Baroness de Poly, written by herself. (Northampton. J. Abel. 1822.)

The father and mother of the authoress of this book were émigré French nobles, reduced to penury in London. After many futile attempts to make a living there, they retired to Banbury, where their daughter, the writer of the book, joined them. They took a cottage at Overthorpe, with the double intention of being near the chapel and opening a school; this project not succeeding, they removed to Middleton-Cheney, and then to Banbury where the father, Baron de Poly, died in a small house in West Street, on December 12, 1810. This unfortunate family were reduced to live in the greatest penury,

¹ *Non-Jurors*, p. 67.

² *Canswick, St. Pancras Monuments*, vol. i.

and were almost dependent upon the kindness and charity of their neighbours. The young Baroness acted as servant to her parents, being blessed with robust health, until on the Good Friday following her father's death an unforeseen accident laid her upon a bed of sickness for three long years. She and her mother having gone to Overthorpe to the chapel on that Good Friday, the congregation were disturbed by a cry of fire. This proved to be at Warkworth, and the young Baroness joined with the people in giving all the help in her power, from nine in the morning until evening she exerted herself, carrying articles from Warkworth to Overthorpe.

Thoroughly exhausted, she walked home at night worn out and fasting, and succumbed to a violent attack of rheumatic fever. Three years passed, during which time Madame de Poly assiduously nursed the invalid, when at the end nature gave way, and falling from fatigue upon the staircase, she breathed her last in the course of a few days, on the 1st of June, 1813. Husband and wife were buried together in Banbury churchyard.

The young Baroness, left destitute and a helpless invalid, became an object of charity to her neighbours, and was removed into smaller lodgings. Having much interest excited in her favour, she at last received money to a small amount from the Royal families of England and France, the latter then resident at Hartwell, Bucks, and also money due to her family abroad. By degrees health returned, and the ability to help herself to her own maintenance. In her 'memoir' the Baroness mentions with gratitude many of the families round Banbury, with whom she had spent different periods of time. Excursions to Stow, Blenheim and Wroxton were taken in their company; whether she remained in Banbury until her death I have not been able to ascertain.

From the above 'memoirs' we learn that Mrs. Platford of Adderbury and Mrs. Manning of Deddington were sisters. Their father had been about twelve years in France. Mrs. Hopcroft lived at Croughton House, Mrs. Taylor at Goddington Hall, and another Mrs. Taylor at Warkworth, Mrs. Salmon at Hardwicke House, James Minn at Souldern, Goddard at Broadstone, Mrs. Dudley at Chapel House, James Collingridge at Fritwell, Mrs. Attenbrow at Stratton-Audley.

PART I. SECTION II

NORTH ASTON AND MIDDLE ASTON

FAMILIES OF BROOKE AND CALVERT

NORTH ASTON

THROUGH the instrumentality of the families of Anne and Brooke, Catholicity held its ground in this parish throughout the whole of the seventeenth and until the middle of the eighteenth century.

Early in the sixteenth century, a branch of the old Yorkshire family of Anne of Frickley Hall settled here; what the occasion of their coming and what their connexion with the Brooke family is not very clear. In 1574 a deed was executed at North Aston between John Brooke of Madeley Court, Shropshire, and Edward Wyng, granting to the latter the lease of a certain piece of land which Brooke had hitherto held from William Anne.

The house occupied by the Annes, and probably the same as was inhabited by the Brookes, was the old Manor House in the village, over the door of which Wood tells us he saw the arms of the Annes¹. This house in 1867 was inhabited by Mr. John Clerke.

The Parish Register records the death of 'Mr. John Broke, who died in London, 1598, and was buried at Madeley next his father Lord Broke; Patron of this church.' Lord Broke here mentioned was Sir Robert, Lord Chief Justice of Common Pleas, who is said in the county histories to be buried at Claverley. Mr. John Brooke married one of the Shirley family, a near relation of Sir Thomas Shirley, who owned South Newington. Their son Sir Basil Brooke was a person well known in the Catholic political society of that day. Through his influence at Court he was well able to protect the interests of his Catholic friends, and in his house near London, Dr. William Bishop died. He was the owner of 'Boscobel,' near Madeley, ostensibly a hunting-box, in reality a refuge for hunted

¹ *Annals of North Aston*, by W. Wing, 1867, and Wood.

priests and Recusants. It had been built by Giffard of Chillington on his estate, and Sir Basil Brooke was at the rejoicings consequent on its completion, when it was questioned what name to give it, he suggested 'Bosco bello,' it being surrounded by magnificent woods.

In 1617 the presentation to the living of North Aston, though calling Sir Basil Brooke the patron, was made by one of the Elliots, probably owing to the disability of Catholics presenting to livings. Sir Basil died in 1646, and was followed by his son Thomas, whose wife was a Neville¹ of the Abergavenny family, and daughter of a first husband of Sir Basil's second wife. Of his five daughters one married W. Fitzherbert. These parties all appear in the following returns:—

'30 Sep. 1651.' Here occur references to Brooks of Madeley, Salop.²

'Purchasers of the estate of Sir Basil Brooke and Thomas his son. 1650, 3rd March. Discharge from sequestration of North Aston Manor, co. Oxon., bought by Major Wildeman³.'

'Lady Frances Neville alias Brooke, widow of Sir Thomas Neville, Abergavenny, 15th May, 1649. John Floyd and Cornelius Bee, compounded for North Aston Manor, Oxon., purchased from Lady Frances Neville and sequestrated for her recusancy. Note, March. That Bee's fine for North Aston Manor and on lease for 99 years or Lady Frances' life, is one year's value; viz. £329 13s. 4d.'⁴

She was widow of Sir Basil Brooke, and mother, by Neville, to the wife of Thomas Brooke, her stepson.

'Claims on estate of Wm. Fitzherbert of Tissington. William Brereton and James Blanks beg to compound for Swinnerton and for a farm in North Aston, Oxon., lately purchased of Wm. Fitzherbert, a recusant only⁵.'

Fitzherbert was son-in-law to Sir Basil. By his second wife Sir Basil had a daughter Frances, who lived with her mother at North Aston; this place was evidently a 'Dower-house.' In 1656 Mr. Fermor of Somerton wooed and won Mistress Frances Brooke, and the nuptials were performed according to the recent order of Parliament by a local Justice of the Peace.

¹ The eldest brother to John, Lord Abergavenny, died *v.p.* in 1628, leaving two sons, who both died unmarried, and one daughter Margaret, who married Thomas Brooke of Madeley, and who was aged 49 in 1663, when their grandson and heir-apparent Basil Brooke was

aged four. (See *Complete Peerage*, vol. i; see also *Sherborne*.)

² *Calendar for Compounding*, Part iii, p. 2232.

³ *Ib.* Part v, p. 3298.

⁴ *Ib.* Part iii, p. 2048.

⁵ *Ib.* Part iii, p. 1498.

'Before a Justice of the Peace Mrs. Frances Brooke, daughter of Sir Basil Brooke and Dame Frances his wife, to Richard Farmer, Esqre, son of Henry Farmer, Esqre, on the 18th August, 1656, by Thomas Appletree of Deddington, for his great honour, being a great man at Deddington. Set down by me, Thomas Burton.'

This appears in the Parish Register of Deddington, and the satirical remarks by Burton the clerk are noteworthy. Thomas Brooke had two sons, with the second of whom we have no concern. The eldest, John, married Elizabeth Guildford, and appears to have died early in life, having had two children, one buried in the church, and one, a son, his successor. In 1680 his widow was already married to Colonel Edward Vernon, who in that year is recorded as having a 'papist wife.' In the following year we find mention of the death of the daughter of John Brooke :—

'Here lyeth the body of Mrs. Margaret Smith, ye beloved wife of John Smith of Crabbett in the co. of Surrey, Esqre, and heir to Sir John Smith, Knt., deceased. Daughter of John Broke, late of Madeley Court, in the co. of Salop, Esqre, leaving one daughter Mary. She departed this life in the 26th year of her age on the 12th day of Feby. A.D. 1681-2, having been married one year and 17 days; on whose soul Jesus have mercy¹.'

Also next to her :—

'Mrs. Elizabeth Vernon, first wife of John Brooke, of Madeley Court, Esqre., and last wife and widow of Edward Vernon, Esqre, of Sudbury, co. Derby, who dept. . . . R. I. P.²'

Sir Edward Southcote married Mary Seaborne :—

'Their third daughter Catherine was not so handsome as her sisters and remained unmarried until she was two-and-thirty, at which age they made a very good match for her with Sir John Smith, of Crabbett in Sussex, an old widower of sixty years of age. He had twelve hundred pounds a year and a monied man, and though they were both so far advanced in years, had many children, Sir John having none by his first wife.

John Southcote, the brother, after his grandfather's death, went down to Merstham in Surrey where his father and mother lived, and finding his sister still unmarried, he and his mother laid their heads together to get her married with Sir J. Smith of Crabbit, nine miles from Merstham, which they brought about in a very short time, and her mother was so well pleased with herself for marrying her daughter so well, after she was past her prime, that she went to London on purpose to receive the congratulations of her friends, but fell sick and died there³.'

¹ *Rawlinson MSS.*, B 400, f.

² u. s.

³ *2nd Report of Historical MSS.*, App., p. 147, MSS. at Woodchester.

A copy of the marriage settlement between J. Smith of Crabbitt and Southcote, is preserved among the *Stafford Papers*. These papers, belonging to the Dominicans, were removed from Woodchester to Haverstock Hill. They came into the possession of the Dominicans while at Carshalton.

John Stafford-Howard, brother to Lady Anastatia Holman of Warkworth, married Mary Southcote, daughter of Sir — Southcote, of Merstham, Surrey¹.

Mr. Basil Brooke succeeded his father John; nothing is mentioned concerning him at North Aston until his death and burial there. The flat stone formerly in one of the aisles of the church bore, 'Basil Brooke of Madeley in the co. of Salop, who departed this life August 22, 1700. Requiescat in pace'².

His widow, Dame Winefred Brooke, the elder daughter of Sir George Browne of Caversham, and sister to Mrs. Fermor of Tusmore, presented to the living in 1711 through the name of Nathaniel Pigott. She had no family, and retired to France, where she died in 1716, leaving her estate in North Aston to Mrs. Henrietta Fermor, her niece.

'North Aston. Manor now in possession of Mrs. Henrietta Farmer, sister to Mr. Farmer of Tusmore, Esqre., left her by Madame Brooke, who died in France, 1716. This estate is leased out to the Lady Howard, Relict of the Honble. Sir Robert Howard of Ashsted in Surrey, lately married to Dr. Marten of New College, Oxford, Rector of Sumerton'³.

In the year 1687 the Vicar of North Aston was presented jointly by Basil Brooke, Basil Fitzherbert, and John Purcell. This last name succeeds henceforth to that of Brooke in the records of this village. The Purcell family were of the Hay, Broasley, in the parish of Madeley, Salop, and were mostly Catholic; they were probably related to the Brookes⁴.

The *Stonyhurst MS.* reports on 'June 24, 1706, the names of all the 'Popish recusants' and one Priest with their respective qualities; Mary Fox, widow, her servant, Mary Fox, widow, eight persons of the name of Bridges.' Another report of the same date says, 'Henry Bridges, labourer (and his family), Joseph and Mary Goodman, three women and a gardener.' 'Mr. Sutton, supposed to be the priest, who

¹ The above account is also printed in Morris's *Troubles*, vol. i, p. 386 and seq.

² Wing's *Annals*.

³ *Rawlinson MSS.*, B 400, f. about 1718.

⁴ See Paync's *Records of Eng. Cath.*

I am credibly informed reads Mass in my parish most Sundays and holidays,' as the Vicar reports¹.

We get a little insight into the social life at North Aston from Antony à Wood's notes. In August, 1677, the University of Oxford gave a grand reception to the Duke of Ormonde, Vice-Chancellor. Amongst the formalities and entertainments of the week a Convocation was held, when the Vice-Chancellor recommended several noblemen, knights, and esquires to receive the degree of D.C.L. Among these were 'Basill Brooke, Esqre., and Colonel Edward Vernon of North Aston.' The Chancellor, when the proceedings were over, took coach, and dined at North Aston, at Colonel Vernon's house, which he repeated upon another similar occasion. Colonel Vernon, a royalist soldier, had married a Mrs. Brooke, widow, of North Aston; he it was who gave the great Vernon MSS. to the Bodleian Library². She was no doubt Elizabeth Guildford, widow of John Brooke, Esq. In 1680 mention is made of Edward Vernon, co. Derby, M.P., 'whose wife was a papist, no estate in Derbyshire³.'

'Thomas Purcell of the Hay, co. Salop, gent. Houses, &c., in North Aston held in trust for a term of 99 years, £42 os. od.⁴'

This is the last entry we have found of Catholic property here; Mr. W. Wing says that the estate was bought by the Dormers from the Brookes.

WOOLFE FAMILY.

Connected with the Brookes at Madeley, and also in Oxfordshire, we find many references to the family of Woolfe.

1669. Will of Francis Woolfe of Madeley.

'Richard Parmer of Stanton Harcourt, Oxon., owes me £600 principal and interest. £50 to Mary Woolfe my wife, the rest to my sons Francis, John, Thomas, Anne, Lawrence. Also to my son Francis all my tenements in Ramsden, Oxon.⁵'

'Woolfe of Madeley, Ashwood, and Brooke were traditionally allied.

¹ It is possible that this 'Mr. Sutton' may be the Franciscan Father, Thomas Sutton, who worked in England from the year 1686 until 1719. He died at Douai, 1722-3. F. Thadeus, *Franciscans*, p. 306.

² See Wood, *Life and Times*, vol. ii, p. 386, and vol. iii, p. 106; and Macray's

Annals of the Bodleian.

³ 11th Report Hist. MSS., App. iv, p. 177.

⁴ Cosin's List, 1716.

⁵ J. J. Howard, *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, vol. i, new series, 1874, p. 125.

Their registers may be found. All three have now disappeared from Madeley, though portions of the Woolfe and Brooke habitations still remain and possess some historic interest¹.

'Augmentation of arms given by Charles II to F. Woolfe, in lieu of a pension declined, for help on the occasion of the Boscobel incident. Also plate, which the family sold in 1775².'

Another writer alludes to the Woolfe family as being partners or proprietors in the 'Shropshire Ironworks' in or about Madeley³.

MIDDLE ASTON

A Grange or solitary Manor House in the parish of Steeple Aston.

Of Benedict Calvert, who once lived there, we have the following notice. His son was a friend of Thomas Hearne, the antiquary, who records various walks and conversations with him, and of visiting Ditchley Park together A.D. 1718 and 1720⁴.

'Benedict Leonard Calvert Esqre., of Middle Aston in the parish of Steeple Aston, and three children of his and one servant, a reputed papist⁵.'

Sir George Calvert, first Lord Baltimore of Longford, in Ireland, became a Catholic, and his son Cecil Calvert, the second Lord, had a grant from Charles I of a large tract of land in Maryland. Thither he went with two hundred Catholic settlers, accompanied by Father Andrew White and four other Jesuits, who evangelized the country. His son, the third Baron Baltimore, saw himself deprived of these large possessions by William III, on account of his faith. His death is mentioned in the *Complete Peerage* as occurring in Feby. 1714⁶, shortly before which his son had apostatized in order to recover the American estates, in which he proved successful, but he only lived to enjoy his victory a short two years. The date given for his secession from the Faith is Jan. 1712³, or one year later, which would be shortly before the death of his father, he himself surviving only until April, 1715⁶. He married Lady Charlotte Lee, and in this marriage we find the reason for his settling in Oxfordshire. The following letter from

¹ Howard, *u. s.*, vol. ii, 1877, p. 451.

² *u. s.*, p. 476.

³ *Account of the Old Manor of Madeley*, by John Randall, p. 57.

⁴ See Hearne's *Reliquiae*, Bliss, vol. i,

p. 390, and vol. ii, p. 452.

⁵ *Stonyhurst MS.*, 1706.

⁶ Oliver's *Collections*, p. 91, and *Complete Peerage*.

her brother, the second Lord Lichfield, will explain this matter. Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, wrote to Lord Lichfield, begging him to inquire into some 'rights' which had been unjustly dealt with in Woodstock Park. He replies:—

'Ditchley, Sep. 15th, 1739.

. . . The Rangership of Woodstock Park was given by King Charles 2nd to my father. . . . Upon the marriage of my sister Charlotte, late Lady Baltimore, my father conveyed his interest in the Rangership of Woodstock Park and what estate belonged to it, as a marriage portion with my sister. Mr. Calvert held it some few years till the Crown purchased it for his late Grace the Duke of Marlborough . . . and, as I remember to have heard, gave Mr. Calvert 6500 or 7000 lbs. for his right in it¹.'

'Benedict Leonard Calvert was married to Lady Charlotte Lee, 2nd June, 1698. He died April, 1715. Lady Charlotte and he had been separated in 1705; she later married Christopher Crowe, Consul at Leghorn, and died aged forty-two, 22nd Jan. 1720, was buried at Woodford as of Woodford Hall, Essex².'

This lady had become a Catholic by the persuasion of her husband and remained so all her life, although her second husband belonged to the Church of England³.

¹ Marshall's *History of Woodstock*, p. 268.

² Hearne's *Diaries*, vol. vi, p. 96, O. H. S.

³ *Complete Peerage*.

PART I. SECTION III

WROXTON, BARFORD, SOUTH NEWINGTON, WARDINGTON, ADDERBURY

FAMILIES OF SHIRLEY, ALLIBONE, JOYNER

WROXTON

AN Augustinian Priory granted to Thomas Pope of Deddington, thence descending to his nephew, Lord Downe, to the Earls of Guilford, and through them to the present owner, Lord North.

We find here no evidence of Catholicity from the time of the change of religion until present times, beyond an entry in *Stonyhurst MS.*, 1706, of a solitary servant of the house.

‘Wroxton : Francis Van den Berg, a Fleming, by condition a servant.’

The succession of priests is as follows. At the beginning of the Mission the priest and chapel were both located at the North Arms public-house; next the chapel was removed to a building on the road-side adjoining the public-house, which in 1900 was used as a band-room; and finally in 1894 the present iron chapel was erected on the road outside the village, the priest living in a house in the village. A beautiful Oratory is in use within the mansion.

PRIESTS AT WROXTON¹.

- 1885. The Rev. A. F. Legendre.
- 1886. The Rev. John Rieter.
- 1889. The Rev. J. F. Roche.
- 1890. The Rev. Augustus Petre.
- 1895. The Rev. A. Helle.
- 1901. The Rev. H. J. Higginson; left in autumn, 1903.

¹ From the *Catholic Directory*. All these lists of priests from the *Directory* only give the approximate dates, viz. the first appearance of the name.

BARFORD

1706. 'Elizabeth Haines, a poor sojourner in this Parish, presented for being a professed Papist¹.'

SOUTH NEWINGTON, OXON.

This parish, lying halfway between Chipping Norton and Banbury, was in the sixteenth century the property of Lovett. By the marriage of the heiress, Jane Lovett², with John Shirley of Stanton-Harold, co. Leicester, the manors of Bottle Bridge, Hunts., Donington, Gloucestershire, the half of King's Newton, Warwickshire, and South Newton, Oxon., came to the Shirleys. Sir George Shirley, Bart., settled them all upon his third son Thomas, the subject of this notice, during his own lifetime.

In the Shirley family our hero is known as 'the Antiquary.' This was not his only claim to honour, for he was a brave knight who fought for his King, and bore all the brunt of the misfortunes adherent to a ruined cause, both in the matter of loyalty and religion. He was knighted at Whitehall on May 22, 1622, being about thirty years of age, and enjoying his own patrimony; his wife was Mary, daughter of Sir Thomas Rushall of Staffordshire.

Pursuant to one of the stringent Proclamations against 'Popish Recusants,' part of the lands of Sir Thomas Shirley were seized by the Commissioners of the Crown³.

'Oct. 2. 8 Charles I. 1632. } Seizure of the Manor of Bottle Bridge for
Ap. 25. 9 Charles I. 1633. } the Recusancy of Sir Thomas Shirley.
Discharged upon a plea of judgment of Court.
Mich. Term, 10 Ch. I.'

Hereupon he appears to have gone abroad, for in 1634 we are told 'Sir Thomas Shirley lyeth at Mr. Turpin's house at Morlaix in France.' In 1637 the Manor of Bottle Bridge was mortgaged to Penelope, Lady Gage, as the 'composition' papers will tell us.

When the war broke out in England, he was under arms in the north as Colonel, and his eldest son served also as Captain, under Sir George Booth. In May, 1653, he was again beyond seas, but

¹ *Stonyhurst MS.*

² See Wood's MSS. F 21.

³ The greater part of this account is

taken from the *Stemmata Shirleiana*,
by Evelyn Shirley.

soon returned, and in less than a year the Register of the old-forgotten church of St. Peter's, Paul's Wharf, London, records that on 'Feby. 4th, 1653-4, Sir Thomas Shirley buried.' This church was burnt in 1666, and never rebuilt. The site is now a dismal burying-ground, close to the College of Arms.

SIR THOMAS SHIRLEY, SOUTH NEWTON, OXON.

'Sir T. Shirley, Recusant, Botolph Bridge, Hunts., and Claimants on his Estate.

21 June, 1650. Wm. Smith of London desires allowance of a judgement by him recovered in the Upper Bench, against Sir Thomas Shirley for £300 debt and £35 costs, for which the Sheriff of co. Hunts., by *elegit*, extended the moiety of certain lands of Sir Thomas', of which two-thirds were sequestered for his recusancy, before proceedings were taken. Begg the benefit of his extent, or payment of £245 still due.

21 June, referred to Reading.

31 July. On Reading's report Smith is ordered to produce the bond and a certificate from the Crown Office and the Exchequer that Sir Thomas Shirley was not convicted nor any seizure issued against him.

15 August. Smith ordered the benefit of his extent till satisfaction of his debt. The extended land to be let at the full value.

26 March, 1651. He complains that in spite of three orders of the Committee for Compounding allowing his claim, the Co. Com. retain £3 12s. 9d., being a quarter's rent calculated by them from Dec. 24 to March 25. Noted, "Called, and not here."

19 Sep. 1651. Sir Thomas Shirley begs one-third of the manor of South Newton, co. Oxford, sequestered for his recusancy. Has a wife and 7 children, and no other maintenance. Noted to be allowed if sequestered for recusancy only, but if as a Papist and delinquent, one-fifth only.

25 April. He begs payment of arrears of his third part and that as the County Committee have taken the whole profits and are endeavouring* to let the two-thirds for seven years to strangers, the Committee for Compounding would let it to Francis Smyth of Enston¹.

15 Oct. 1651. Begg allowance of the third part of Beeston, Botolph Bridge Manor, co. Hunts., which the County Committee refuse, with arrears from Dec. 24, 1649.

15 Oct. Granted his one-third and the mansion house, if he has no other habitation.

12 May, 1652. Complains that the Co. Committee have leased the two-thirds of his estate for seven years to his great detriment, and begs that he may have his chief manor house of Botolph Bridge, according to the Act.

12 May. He is to have one-third if sequestered only for recusancy, and the mansion house, if not already allowed and if he have no other².

¹ See Enstone.

² *Calendar for Compounding*, Part iii, p. 2380.

'6 Nov. 1650. Sir Wm. Harvey and Dame Penelope Gage his wife, of Hengrave, Suffolk, beg allowance of their claim to lands in Botolph Bridge conveyed to Lady Gage¹ in 1637 by Sir Tho. Shirley for 200 years for £500 seized for her recusancy, but discharged 10 Ch. I and the rents paid until they were sequestered 31 Aug. last. . . . etc.

23 Nov. 1653. James Ravenscroft of the Inner Temple, begs allowance of his claim on the manors of Botolph Bridge and South Newton, co. Oxon., sequestered for the recusancy of Sir T. Shirley, who 23rd July, 1641, secured out of the said manors the sum of £200 with interest, to petitioner and his heirs, which sum is still unpaid. . . . etc.

25 May, 1653. Margaret, widow of James Gibbons, claims £50 lent by him to Sir T. Shirley, hears that Sir Thomas is beyond seas. . . . etc.

12 Sep. 1654. Anne, Frances and Thomas, younger children of Sir Thos. Shirley, petition the Protector. They complain that they are denied by the Co. Com. of Oxfordshire the benefit of their father's settlement aforesaid of £200 to be raised by Sir Thomas Shirley, Cotton Barrow and James Ravenscroft, and then the estate was to be for raising their portions.

5 Oct. Claim allowed, sequestration discharged and arrears granted.'

LESSEES OF THE ESTATE.

'11 Nov. 1651. Thomas Pomfret² of Falcott, co. Northants., begs a lease of 7 years of the manor of South Newton, Oxon., sequestered for the recusancy of Sir T. Shirley. The estate has been leased to him for a year from Michaelmas 1657, and has been posted and boxed. Has always adhered to the Parliament³.'

'8th Feby, 1650-1. Sir Thomas Shirley's estate is valued at £100 and the former tenant who contracted for two-thirds at £51 is not willing to hold it at that rate.

County Commission for Oxon, at Deddington, Feby. 8⁴.'

N.B. There was another Thomas Shirley at Pirton (q.v.), he was connected with the Nevilles. See North Aston and Pirton.

¹ Sir John Gage married Penelope, daughter and co-heiress of Thomas d'Arcy, Lord Rivers. and widow of Sir George Trenchard. She married thirdly, Sir William Harvey, Kt., of Ickworth. She was the mother of Sir Thomas Gage, who married Mary Chamberlain, of Sherborne, Oxon. *Burke's Peerage*, p. 420.

² There is a farm-house called 'Pom-

fret Castle' on the road-side in the parish of Swerford, two miles from South Newington. This was probably the place where the above Thomas Pomfret lived.

³ *Calendar for Compounding*, Part iii, p. 2381.

⁴ *Calendar for Compounding*, Part i, p. 407.

PETITION OF MISTRESS ANNE SHIRLEY¹ TO THE PROTECTOR.

'Upon the most accomplis'd Lady Mistress Anne Shirley ; petitioning the Old Protector. In imitation of Mr. Waller's soft and smooth poetry².'

1.

O beautiful and mighty Ja'el!
Which could on Sisera prevayl,
Yet without hammer, or the nayl.

2.

Now his own Weapon's force he bears,
He did pretend to fight by Pray'rs,
And is himself o'ercome by her's.

3.

She ask'd with grace so mildly Brave,
You would have thought he ask'd, she gave,
She was the Prince, and he the Slave.

4.

Juno came down from Heaven so,
To begg of Eolus below,
To begg, but as a Goddess too.

5.

With such an awe petition'd there,
That he who was to graunt did fear,
Knowing she rul'd the Thunderer.

6.

But that rough Goddess's commands
Were to raise Storms on Seas and Lands :
Our's were more calm and just demands.

7.

She only ask'd her own Estate,
Torn from her by the times and fate ;
Strange times ! that could such Sweetness hate.

8.

He her request not only heard,
Trembled for fear amidst his guard,
And scarce from worshipping forbear'd.

9.

Thus mighty Dagon fell before
The captive Ark, upon that Floor
When all besides did him adore.

¹ She was daughter of Sir T. Shirley.

² *Stemmata Shirleiana*, p. 126.

10.

Well she those powerfull may trust,
Which (more than all the world can boast)
Forc'd the Protector to be just.

11.

O! had she ask'd some publique good,
To such strong charms he must have bow'd,
And Crowns where they are due bestowed.

12.

Caesar first Ægypt did surprize,
But then himself, and it a prize
Resign'd to Cleopatra's eyes.

T. S.

This was probably written by Thomas Shirley, son of Sir Thomas, and was published as a broadsheet at the time. Sir Thomas Shirley tells us himself that he 'suffered for the faith, losses, dishonours, disgraces pecuniary (which were very great) and imprisonment for the love of God.' The whole of his estates were dispersed and his family forgotten very quickly. The fate of his wife and children is unknown, 'they being merged in the oblivion which overtook this branch of the great house of Shirley.'

All that can be gathered is the above Petition of the three younger children, and a 'Petition' of Thomas Shirley, the son, to King Charles II in 1662, which begs: 'For the place of Gentleman Usher to the Queen, and for positive orders for his admission; his father, Sir Thomas Shirley served the late King as Squire of the body and Colonel in the North, was plundered himself and imprisoned as Captain under Sir George Booth¹.'

He cannot have been successful in his demand, for in 1667 we find him writing to Sir Joseph Williamson to get him a place in the new Excise Office, and offering to pay him £100 a year, a third of the profits, for his friendship in the matter. He was still alive in 1669, but no more is known of him. It was from him that his father's MSS. came to Sir J. Williamson, and by him they came to Queen's College, Oxford.

The Manor of South Newington came into the hands of the Earl of Shrewsbury, how or when I have not discovered. In the Schedule of Oxfordshire property set forth for sale in 1843 we find: 'The

¹ See *Calendar State Papers Domestic*, 1661-2, p. 389.

manor or reputed manor of South Newington with its quit-rent, etc., and 'the close of land at South Newington, in the occupation of John Lowt¹.'

WARDINGTON

ALLIBONE OR ALLIBOND OF WARDENTON.

The Allibones had been seated at Wardenton for four generations. The first mentioned there became father to Peter Allibond, Rector of Chenies in Bucks., where he was buried in March, 1628-9. In his turn he was father to three sons: Dr. John Allibone, sometime Master of Magdalen School, Oxon., who died Rector of Bradwell in Gloucestershire, *sine prole*, 1658, and was known as the 'witty man of Magdalen'; Peter Allibone, Fellow of Lincoln College, who died in London, 1640; and Job, who becoming a Catholic, was disinherited from the family estates. However, he sought his own fortune, and obtained a place in the Post Office, which secured him competency.

His two sons were both Catholics—Sir Richard Allibone, one of the Justices of the King's Bench, who while on circuit had the courage to procure Mass to be said before him, braving popular disfavour; and Job, alias 'John Ford.' This second son was educated at the English College at Douay, entering in 1652 at the age of 14. For many years he served upon the English Mission, but possibly his name would not have come down to us had he not been one of the Catholic Fellows of Magdalen. In November, 1687, Dr. Fairfax having been expelled, and Mr. Ludford being dead, William Joyner and Job Allibone were admitted to fill the vacant places, and took the oaths necessary for the admission of a Fellow, but were excused from all others. Wood remarks that they even 'blundered much at that oath².' He was expelled with the other Catholics the following year, and died in 1709.

ADDERBURY

FAMILY OF JOYNER.

'Michel Cole Firmar' terr' Humphrey Joyner in Adderbury, £6 13s. 4d.³'

All we are able to learn about this family is the marriage of the

¹ *Evidences for the Shrewsbury Case.* James II.

² See *Gillow's Dictionary*; Wood's *Life and Times*; *Magdalen College and* ³ *Quietus Roll*, 34, ch. i.

above Humphrey Joyner of Adderbury, to Elizabeth Windsor, daughter of Peter Windsor of Thames Ditton, grandson of the first Lord Windsor, and son of Thomas Windsor and Mary Bokenham¹.

The following note may very possibly refer to this Joyner:—

‘1641. Petition of Anthony Browne that Sir John Lenthal, Keeper of the King’s Bench Prison, may be called upon to answer for the liberty he allows one Joyner, a prisoner in execution at Petitioner’s suit whereby Joyner prodigally spends his money and leaves the debts of his honest creditors unpaid².’

The beautiful old Manor House of East Adderbury belonging to the Diocese of Winchester carries a tradition with it that Mass used to be said there and a glass chalice used.

Among the names of Recusants at liberty in the county of Oxford in 1592 we read the name of Michael Busard³ of Adderbury. This can only mean the head of the family of Bustard. Very few notices are to be found concerning this family, but from the few which have come down to us, it is evident that they remained at Adderbury, and Catholic, until the Restoration. They intermarried with Frere of Water-Eaton, Cheriton of Wolvercote, and Blount of Orleton. Thomas Blount the Antiquary was son of Anne Bustard.

¹ See pedigree of Windsor in *Collins’s Peerage*, vol. iv, p. 86.

² *4th Report Hist. MSS.*, p. 114.

³ See p. 3 of this Work.

PART II. SECTION I

SOMERTON, TUSMORE, HARDWICK, HETHE

*FAMILIES OF FERMOR AND TEMPEST OF
SOMERTON*

THE NORTH-EAST PORTION OF OXFORDSHIRE,
EXTENDING FROM THE CHERWELL TO THE BORDERS OF BUCKS.,
AND AS FAR SOUTH AS THE RIVER RAY

SOMERTON

WE may say that virtually the whole of this district has been, in a Catholic sense, under the protection of the Fermors, an essentially Oxfordshire family, and whose influence was also felt in many parishes in the North-West division.

In the reign of Edward IV, Thomas Richards, *alias* Fermor, of Witney, married Emmotte, a daughter of Henry Wenman, one of the rich clothier merchants of that town. They both repose in the parish church of Witney. Their second son was the ancestor of the Fermors of Somerton and Tusmore. From Henry VIII William Fermor received half of the Manor and the advowson of Somerton, part of the confiscated estates of Francis Lord Lovell, and in a few years he purchased the other half and built a house near the village, known as Somerton Place, in which he resided for forty years: a chapel formed a part of this mansion¹.

Mr. Fermor did not shrink from acting as one of the King's Commissioners for collecting the tenths of spiritualities, then forbidden to be paid to Rome. This cautious policy saved him from penalties, but there is no insinuation that he was unfaithful to his religion.

Thomas Fermor of Easton Neston became successor to his uncle in 1552, and resided in Somerton for twenty-eight years. In 1580 he died, and by his will devised to his executors the 'Castle Yard in

¹ Details of the Fermor family are drawn from Blomfield's *Deanery of Bicester, Somerton and Tusmore*, unless where otherwise mentioned.

Somerton and the Chappell therein standing,' that they might procure a licence and erect a school in the said chapel. This school thus established continued as a small Grammar School until recent years¹. His wife was Bridgett Bradshaw, daughter of the Judge, whose name connects this family with Noke (q. v.).

Considering the number of Oxfordshire villages in which the Fermors owned property, it will be interesting to read the following extracts from the wills of Mr. William Fermor and of his son.

WILL OF WILLIAM FERMOR, DATED SEPTEMBER 11, 1552.

'To be buried in Somerton Church. . . . Bequests for the repairs of Churches of Somerton, Hardwyk, Ardley, Ffrytwell, and Godington. The manor and advowson of Somerton and lands in Ffrytwell, Dunstew, Steple Aston, Mydle Aston, Idburye, Foscote, Bolde, Kingham, Pudlehill, and Banbury, co. Oxon. . . . to my wife Elizabeth for life.'

THE WILL OF THOMAS FERMOR, DATED JUNE 15, 1580.

'To be buried in Somertonne Church. . . . Bequests to the churches of Somertonne and Astleye, and to the poor of Somertonne, etc. . . . My chief mansion house in Hardwick Audley to my servant John Bulleyne for life, remainder to Joyce his wife for life, remainder to my nephew Nicholas Ffarmor. Messuage in Somertonne to my servant William Turner. Lands in Hardwick Audley to my servant James Alwoode. Messuage in Godington, co. Oxon., to my servant Will. Mercer. Messuage in Godington to John Yates of Godington. . . . My manors of fritwell, co. Oxon., and Gambo, co. Worc., to my son Richard Ffarmor under age. . . . My manors, lands, advowsons. etc., in Somertonne, Hardwick Audley, Godington, Clanfeelde, and Woodstock, co. Oxon. . . . to my executors for sixteen years in trust for the purposes of my will, and after to my said son Richard².'

Sir Richard Fermor, Knt., was the next head of the family, and he died just as the Parliamentary wars were breaking out, in 1642; his son-in-law, Colonel Thomas Morgan, was killed at Newbury in the next year, fighting upon the King's side. Sir Richard was twice married, his second wife, Cornelia Cornwallis, being the mother of his two sons—John, who died in his father's lifetime, and Henry

¹ The present parish school succeeded this Grammar School, and when the room was re-floored several skeletons and a small silver crucifix were found beneath. The bones were buried by the Rev. W. Price, the Vicar, in a grave close by the churchyard gate. It is probable that the said chapel had be-

longed to the castle from mediaeval times.

² Blomfield, and *5th Report Hist. MSS.*, p. 364, Shirley MSS. Executor. ship account under the will of Thomas Fermor of Somerton, Oxon., June 15, 1580. See *Archaeological Journal*, vol. viii.

of Tusmore. The family prosperity suffered a severe check at the death of Sir Richard; his eldest son John, who had been knighted at Shotover—at Sir Timothy Tyrrell's, August 29, 1624¹, and died the following year—left a young widow, Cecily Compton, who by this time was the wife of Lord Arundel of Wardour.

This led to the Somerton and Godington properties being alienated to Lord Arundel, as his wife's dowry, and they did not revert to the Fermors until thirty years had passed.

Somerton being temporarily lost to the family, Henry Fermor, the heir, settled at Tusmore, an estate which his father had bought in 1612.

HENRY, LORD ARUNDEL, AND CECILY HIS WIFE².

'Henry, Lord Arundel, being in the late Act, begs to compound thereon for the following portions of his estate.

1653. Orders for discharge from Sequestration of the following estates forfeited by Lord Arundel and purchased from the Treason Trustees by Humphrey Weld of Lulworth Castle, and trustees . . . after enumerating estates in other counties. . . . 24th Aug. Goddington Manor, Oxon. 28th Sep. Somerton Manor, Oxon. 25th Feby. 1655. Weld and trustees beg an order to the County Committee to quiet them in possession of a house in Goddington Manor, Oxon., sequestered for recusancy of Wm. Mynde the lessee, whose lease is now expired.

Discharged on sight of Deed.'

This transaction is mentioned in *Oliver's Collections*, p. 82, as a 'Particular of the estate late of Henry Lord Arundel of Wardour, sold at Drury House.' The purchaser, Humphrey Weld, Esq., of Lulworth, was brother-in-law to Lord Arundel, and only acted as a friend in behalf of his lordship.

'29th July, 1653. Manor of Goddington, co. Oxon. to Weld, first moiety £1,065 10s. 0d. 2nd Sep. 1653. Manor of Somerton, co. Oxon. £804 17s. 11d.'

Both were paid by Weld, who paid the first moieties. Lady Arundel died in 1675, March 21, aged 67, upon which it would appear that the Somerton estate reverted to the Fermors. During these thirty years of alienation we have no record of any inhabitant of the house, but it was kept in certain repair, and shortly before 1685³, James,

¹ See *Book of Knights*.

³ Wood's *Life and Times*, vol. iii,

² *Calendar for Compounding*, Part ii, pp. 45-55.
pp. 1223.

Duke of York, paid a visit here and was entertained. The room he used was afterwards called the 'Prince's Chamber,' and was over the hall¹. The chapel and Mission continued for long after, until by degrees the people fell off and resorted to other places to hear Mass. The house was pulled down and the materials taken, according to tradition, to help in the new house at Tusmore. Nothing was left but the window of the large hall, still standing in 1895².

Cornelia, Lady Fermor lived separately from her husband for many years. Her mind seems to have been deranged. About sixteen years after marriage Sir Richard allowed her to live apart from him, paying board and lodging to some person for her maintenance. In 1619, however, these parties sued Sir Richard for the payment of money expended upon his wife. Dean Blomfield³ quotes this from *Acta Cancellaria*, by C. Monro (1847), No. clxxx. After Sir Richard's death in 1642, his son Henry went to live at Tusmore, the mother probably remaining at Somerton, as we find from the ensuing paper that she was not far from several of the Oxfordshire gentlemen. We have no certain knowledge of her domicile; probably she continued at Somerton. The following painful discussion ensued between her children and a certain venal person, her nephew, for the custody of the poor lady.

‘27 June. Draft order appointing Henry Withypool guardian to Lady Cornelia Farmer, a lunatic.

27 June. Application that Henry Withypool may not be appointed guardian to Lady Cornelia Farmer.

31 July. Petition of Lucy Petre, daughter of Dame Cornelia Farmer, widow. Petitioner's mother has been distempered with lunacy, but is now, by the blessing of God and care of the petitioner and her husband, in a fair way of recovery, but one Henry Withypool, an unmarried man of no visible estate in this country but residing mostly in Holland, where he has a company of soldiers under him, has petitioned the House for the custody of the Lady, out of desire to make advantage to himself out of her estate. Petitioner prays the House not to commit Lady Farmer and her estate to so unfit a person, but to Lord Wenman, Mr. James Fiennes, Mr. John Fiennes and Sir Robert Dormer, who are men of quality and integrity and near neighbours to her and her estate.

31 July. Petition of Elizabeth, Viscountess Lumley, that she may be appointed guardian of her sister, Lady Farmer, widow of Sir Richard

¹ See *Gentleman's Magazine*, Feb. 1827, vol. xevii, p. 115.

² Rawlinson mentions the coats of arms 'in the old chapel within the

house,' about 1718, and in 1736 it is said simply that the Catholics assemble in a house in the village.

³ *Somerton*, p. 118.

Farmer¹, in the place of Henry Withipool, Lady Farmer's nephew, who has no estate in England, but whose only subsistence is as a captain in foreign parts.

18 *Sep.* Petition of Lucy Petre, wife of William Petre and daughter to the Lady Fermor (or Farmer) a lunatic. Upon petitions of Viscountess Lumley and Henry Withipool two days were appointed for the hearing their application that Lady Fermor and her estate might be settled in safe hands, but business of greater importance prevented the hearing. She prays that another day may be appointed about a month or five weeks hence, and that Lady Fermor's estate may meantime be free from molestation.

1646-7. *Jan.* 21. Application in the case of Withipool and Lady Farmer. Withipool, without the knowledge of Lady Farmer's children or friends, obtained an order for the custody of her and her estate as a lunatic. There having been several days of hearing upon exceptions taken by Lady Farmer's children, and the tenants taking notice of the controversy, refuse to pay the rents to the bailiffs of the estate. It is desired that Withipool may have no power under the order obtained by him until the matter be fully heard, and that the tenants may be ordered to pay their rents to Lady Farmer's bailiffs.

Draft in accordance with preceding application ².

We now leave the Fermor family, to meet them again at Tusmore.

EXTRACTS FROM 'LOUVAIN RECORDS'³.

In the Monastery of St. Ursula's, at Louvain, were several English nuns. In February, 1608-9, they determined to separate the English from the Dutch nuns, so the English to the number of six, upon February 10, left the old house, and took to a new one under the patronage of St. Monica. Shortly they were joined by eight more English nuns, the youngest of whom, Sister Mary Skidmore, had promise from her uncle, Sir Richard Farmer, of twenty nobles a year.

1647. Sir Richard Farmer dying, left us one hundred pounds for his daughter, Sister Cornelia's sake.

1651. Among the school children was 'one Mr. Farmer's daughter, niece to good Sister Cornelia.'

Sister Cornelia Farmer was a 'White Sister or Converse,' daughter

¹ Sir William Cornwallis had four daughters: 1, Frances, m. Sir Ed. Withipole; 2, Elizabeth, m. Thomas Sands; 3, Cornelia, m. Richard Farmer; 4, Anne, m. as second wife, 7th Earl of Argyll (*Collins*, vol. v). Lady Come-

lia's will was administered in 1653.

² *6th Report Hist. MSS.*, p. 124 a. *House of Lords*, 1646.

³ Printed in substance in *Troubles of our Catholic Forefathers*, Rev. J. Morris.

of Sir Richard Farmer. She made her profession in 1628, but being at the time ill, and was completely confined to her bed for thirty years, dying Jan. 19, 1660. She made her profession in her 21st year.

THE CONGREGATION AT SOMERTON.

The Catholic congregation of Somerton was one of the most numerous in the county, and constituted a veritable Catholic rural population.

The *Stonyhurst MS.* of 1706 gives us a list of fifty persons presented for recusancy in Somerton.

In 1736 a Bishop's Visitation, held at Islip, reports twenty-six Catholics at Somerton; the ordinary Churchwardens' Presentments down to 1763 average 25. Appended to the return for 1736 is the remark, 'We have reason for believing that the Roman Catholics meet sometimes for their services in a house in the parish, but they are civil, quiet and peaceable.'

The principal names among them were Jennings, East, Saunders, Collingridge, Stanbridge, Horn, Hoar (schoolmaster), Thonger, (miller), Dew, Clerk, Callaway, Leppington, Smith, Ansty, Philips, Clifford, Day, Davies, Rice, Hatton, and 'Mr.' Hardwicke. The last-mentioned was probably the priest.

The last Catholic resident at Somerton in 1899 was still a Jennings. Mr. James Jennings, who lived in the house now known as the Railway Tavern, was one of the greatest surveyors of the day; his numerous maps are regarded even now as infallible evidence¹. He died in 1832, and his widow, who long survived him, was known as a notable housewife, and it was remembered of her that she used to get her dairy-work finished on Sunday mornings in time to go to Mass at Hethe, five miles away.

'Recusants in 1634 who beg to contract on the Recusants' Act for two-thirds of their sequestered estates.

William Mynne of Somerton, Oxon. Francis Hildersly, Oxon., and p. 3149. Thomas Smith, Somerton, Oxon.²

In 1652, in the same papers, Mynne and Smith appear as guardians to the heirs of Austin Belson (see Aston Rowant). Mynne also was sequestered for Godington (see *supra*, p. 68). Some of this family are buried in Somerton Church.

¹ W. Wing, *Bicester Poor Law Annals*, No. 3, p. 144.

² *Calendar for Compounding*, Part v, p. 3186.

The Manor of Somerton was sold by the last head of the family of Fermor, about the years 1815-17, and bought by Lord Jersey.

Edward Harnage, Esq., of Belwardyne, Shropshire, married Mary, daughter of William Mynne of Somerton, Oxon. She died in 1690. The mother of Nicholas Saunders, the Catholic Apologist, was Elizabeth Myne¹.

A family of Mynne lived many years in Souldern, non-Catholic, but the last Mrs. Mynne was a Catholic.

At Yarnton the same name held the Manor Farm for many years.

We have no record of any resident Chaplain at Somerton. The place might have been served by either Jesuits or Franciscans. Father Wolfe from Oxford is said to have retired here frequently, and he was brought here from Oxford for burial, as obviously the most suitable place for his interment, in 1673.

Several of the Fermor family were Jesuits, and probably were often here in residence.

Father Thomas Fermor, *alias* Barker, *alias* Stillington, born 1594. Served the Oxfordshire Mission. There was also another Father Thomas Fermor².

Sanderson or Anderton, *vere* Fermor, John, aged 18 in 1617 (Bucks.)³.

List of Catholics at Somerton in 1736 presented to the Bishop by Robert Dew, churchwarden: William Jennings, Dorothy Jennings, James and Elizabeth Jennings, Anthony Read, Frank Halleburton, Thomas and Hellen Collingridge, Edmund Collingridge, Henry Bolter, Rose Knight, Catherine Rogers, William and Grace Stanbridge, Mary Saunders, Thomas Saunders, Robert Nichols, John and Sicely Hawtree, Edmund Horn, Martha Horn, William and Susanna Anstree, William and Mary Tuckett, Sarah Thonger. This list differs considerably from that presented at the Bishop's visitation at Islip, Oct. 4, 1736.

In 1744 there were 26 Catholics.

In 1760 there were 25 „

In 1763 there were 25 „

George Thonger (ob. 1773) and Robert Thonger (ob. 1761), Robert and John Rogers, were frequently absent from the parish church; they may have been Catholics, as the same names occur in the Catholic list.

¹ *Burke's Extinct Baronetage*.

² *Foley's Records*, vol. vii, p. 248.

³ *u. s.*, vol. vi, p. 279.

A messuage or farm in Somerton, belonging in the early seventeenth century to the Manor of North Aston, and called for distinction's sake 'Somertons,' is now known as 'Troy farm.' This name it takes from the turf maze of great antiquity still existing in the garden. The owner of North Aston, Mr. Anne, also held this farm, and we may trace its descent in a certain measure from Anne to Fermor.

'June 1562. Robert Austin Citizen and Grocer of London; Mr. Skipwith should release to R. Austin and Alice his wife, widow of Hen. Duncombe, all his right in the mansion house and manor of Somertons, and in Mylfield pasture and lodge at North easton, co. Oxford; then in occupation of Henry Moore. In consideration Austin had lately married Skipwith's natural sister Alice he gave to Robert and Alice the lease of the said premises dated 8 May 1553, granted by William Anne to Hen. Duncombe for 61 years from the death of Anne Anne the widow, rent £12¹.'

The name of Henry Moore, at that time living in 'Somertons,' connects the place with the family of Tempest, who were at Somerton about this time.

According to the pedigree of Tempest in Surtees' *History of Durham*, we find that one of the Tempests of Holmeside married a Lenthall of Lachford, co. Oxon., and their eldest son was a well-known character at the period. He is styled 'of Somerton,' and was Doctor of Laws; in the first year of Elizabeth he left the country, being opposed to the Reformation, and thenceforth lived in great esteem in Flanders. Being abroad, it is possible that his brother William lived in his house at 'Somertons,' whose wife was Elizabeth More of Haddon in Bampton. These two apparently lived and died at 'Somertons'; in the Parish Register are entered their deaths:—

'William Tempest, gent: died June, 1630. "1.—" Elizabeth Tempest, widow, died March, 1630.' (old style?)

Another brother, Michael, was the father of Father Robert Tempest, S.J.; of him Foley says that he was nephew to the above Robert, and was twenty in 1586. He was born in Durham county, and being already a priest, he entered the Society of Jesus in 1623². Both uncle and nephew are mentioned in the report of a spy to Secretary Cecil in 1602. Father Robert suffered a long, wellnigh thirty years, imprisonment for the Faith, and when released he retired into Hampshire,

¹ *State Papers Domestic*, Add. 1547—1565, p. 547.

Robert Tempest was alive in 1626, and was uncle to Mr. William Clifford.

² *Foley Records*, vol. iii, p. 402.

where for some time he laboured upon the Mission, dying in July, 1640, at the house of his brother-in-law, 'probably' Tichbourne, and was buried 'most likely' in the old cemetery of St. James near Winchester; Oliver calls him 'Vinctus Christi.' His brother Edward, who had also suffered imprisonment, went with his friend John Yate to the English College at Rome, and their names are inscribed in the 'Pilgrim Book' for 1586, 1590, 1599¹.

William Tempest, the elder, made his will in 1627². He therein mentions his wife, his sons, Robert, Thomas the lawyer, Andrew and William, his daughter Elizabeth, and his cousins Robert Tempest and George Vaughan; and he bequeaths his farms at (Brise) Norton, Kidlington, and Somerton. A glance at his pedigree shows that he had other daughters besides Elizabeth whom he mentions; from other sources we learn that Andrew had the land at Brise-Norton, and settled at Great Tew, Thomas lived in Cambridgeshire, and William probably had the farm at Kidlington. Another Robert Tempest, perhaps the 'cousin' in the will, was of Steeple Aston³.

TUSMORE AND HARDWICK

At the death of Sir Richard Fermor of Somerton, we found the greater portion of the estates in possession of Lord Arundel, through right of his wife, the widow of Sir John Fermor.

Tusmore had been purchased sometime before the year 1612, from Sir John Spencer, who bought it from the family of Williamson, by Mr. Fermor, and in 1642, upon his father's death, Mr. Henry Fermor retired thither. The house appears to have had a chapel attached to it, and from all accounts the same chapel, renewed, existed until it was destroyed by a fire about the year 1850.

This house was of considerable importance in the county, as Dr. Plot, who published his *Natural History of Oxfordshire* in 1677, takes great note of the improvements in the pleasure-grounds and farm, and, what is more important to our history, the following local tradition, dating from the middle of the seventeenth century, is found in Dunkin's *History of Ploughly and Bullington*, Part ii, p. 94:—

'In the old Mansion at Tusmore was a neatly furnished room below

¹ See Foley, vol. vi.

² See *State Papers Domestic*, 1638-9, p. 224.

³ Having written a History of Kidlington, the writer did not come across the name of Tempest.

ground, for hiding a priest in cases of emergency; the entrance was by a trap-door constituted in the window-seat of a parlour, which turned on a pivot and rose and fell with the weight of a person.

The great fish-pond is said to have been dug by a priest and a single labourer during the time of persecution, and to have constituted their daily occupation for twelve years.'

Mr. Fermor appears to have died in London in 1675, and was brought home and buried in Somerton Church.

The succeeding squire, Richard Fermor, had been married in 1656, according to the enactment of the Commonwealth, at North Aston, to Mistress Frances Brooke (see North Aston).

We have no account of him or of his son in their Oxfordshire home; they seem to have been much in London, and Mr. Fermor died there:—

'Jan. 5, 1683-4. Richard Fermor of Somerton Oxon., Esqre, died in London being seized with an apoplexie. Brought from London to Somerton¹.'

His granddaughter, Arabella, will however always be remembered wherever the poem of Alexander Pope may be read. It is said that the poet met a merry and distinguished party of Oxfordshire Catholics at Hampton Court, and then the little incident occurred and became immortalized in the poem *The Rape of the Lock*, which Pope wrote under a large oak in West Grinstead Park, the seat of the Carylls².

The following Licence was given in favour of Mary Fermor, Arabella's aunt, and shows one of the indignities to which our Catholic ancestors were subjected:—

1696. 'April 8. Durham. Licence under the hand and seals of Robert Ellison, Jo Gordon, mayor, Geo Morland, and Jo Sedgwick, for Thomas Maire of the city of Durham, gentleman, being a popish recusant convict, with his servant John Joppling, also a papist, who by lawes and statutes are restrained from travelling above five miles from their place of abode. Maire had informed them, four of his Majesty's justices of the peace, that he had occasion to travel into the county of Oxford to court a young lady in order to a marriage, and had taken an oath that this was the true cause. They give licence to him and his servant to go to Oxford, and to be absent three months, and then he is to return to Durham.

1696. June 11. Council Chamber at Whitehall. Licence under the

¹ Wood, *Life and Times*, vol. iii, p. 86.

² See *West Grinstead et les Caryll*, Londres: Burns & Oates.

hands of J. (Earl of) Bridgewater, and the Earls of Stamford, Scarborough and Romney, and countersigned by Cha. Montague for Thomas Mair Esqre and his wife with four servants to go from Tesmore in Oxfordshire to his home in the county of Durham, notwithstanding the late proclamation of the 25th Feb. last ¹. (The seal of the Council affixed.)

Hardwicke, near Hartlepool, was the seat of the Maire family. The house was attacked by a 'No Popery' mob in 1746².

Mrs. Arabella Fermor was daughter of Mr. Henry Fermor, of Tusmore, and Mrs. Ellen Browne, of Shefford, co. Berks. She was the heroine, as previously stated, of Pope's graceful and lively poem, *The Rape of the Lock*, the scene of which he fixes at Hampton Court. To the attentive reader *The Rape of the Lock* seems to insinuate in a veiled and pleasant fiction the Catholic belief in spirits and guardian angels, under the figure of Gnomes and Sylphs. As the author and all the heroes were Catholics, what more natural? 'Sir Plume' was intended for Sir George Browne of Kiddington, and the poet's constant friend, Mrs. Martha Blount, was also of our county and of the old Catholic stock.

Mrs. Arabella Fermor married the Squire of Ufton Court near Newbury, the representative of an old Catholic line, Francis Perkins, Esq. Upon her marriage Pope wrote to her a congratulatory letter, and it has been said that he wrote the above-mentioned poem at Ufton.

In *Notes and Queries*, 1st Series, vol. iv, pp. 315 and 493, occur the following notices of this lady:—

'Ufton Court, nine miles from Reading on the Newbury Road and two miles off the high road, is an ancient Manor House; the chapel in the house and hiding-place for priests are still to be seen. It is said that Pope wrote *The Rape of the Lock* here³.'

In August, 1850, Miss Mitford wrote in the *Ladies' Companion* the following account:—

'Fifty years ago a Catholic priest was the sole inhabitant of this interesting mansion. . . . Several relics of Mrs. A. Fermor are in the possession of the nieces of Mrs. Lenoir, the priest's friend, her rosary, &c., and her portrait, taken when about thirteen or fourteen years of age, is most interesting: her high, broad forehead, dark eyes richly fringed and deeply

¹ 3rd Report of Historical MSS., p. 255. Among the MSS. belonging to Sir John Lawson at Brough Hall, Yorkshire.

² *Merry England*, Oct. 1887. The

Haydock Papers.

³ *History of Ufton Court, co. Berks.*, both taken from Miss Sharp and Miss Mitford.

set, a straight nose, pouting lips, and a short chin finely rounded. The dress is dark and graceful, with a little white turned back at the neck, and loose sleeves. Altogether I never saw a more charming girlish portrait. . . . Her last surviving son died childless in 1769, and the estate passed into another family. The portrait above is in (1851) Reading, purchased at Ufton Court when the property was sold.'

A portrait of Arabella Fermor is also at Tusmore at the present time.

We are now arrived at the Non-Juring days. Mr. Henry Fermor died in 1702-3, leaving his widow and two sons with certain interests in his property.

LISTS OF PAPISTS, JULY, 1706. TUSMORE AND HARDWICK.

'Mrs. Farmer, widow, Mrs. Frances Farmer, Mr. James Farmer, Tho East, Frances Clay, Tho Callaway, Agnes Parcell, Sarah Webster, Eliz Clifford, Ursula Price, Ann Bishop, servants; Mary Hatton, widow, Tho Davies, labourer.'

Heath. 'Henry Bennett and wife (same as at Souldern); John Hilliar; Anne Justice and Mary her dau. Margaret Newton; Amy West; Anne Page.'

In Cosin's *List*, 1716, we find:—

'Helen Fermor, annuity of £600 out of manors of Cottesford, Somerton and Fritwell. John Dormer Esqre, one of her trustees, £600.

James Fermor of Tusmore Esqre, entailed estate at Tusmore, Somerton, Godington, &c. Robert Day one of the Tenants at £150. £1,434 12s. 0d.

Henry Fermor of Tusmore Esqre annuity out of Tusmore £200.'

He was called 'of Banbury,' and was brother to James and to Arabella Fermor.

In co. Bucks. 'Ursula Price of Tusmore, co. Oxon., annuity of £20 out of manor of Halton, co. Bucks., and house at Weston-Underwood leased to her by Sir Francis Throckmorton.'

In Payne's *Records of English Catholics*, p. 6:—

'Ursula Price of Tusmore, spinster, does not state her relationship to any of any of her numerous legatees, but names five children of James Fermor, deceased.'

August, 1720—March, 1734. For burials of Prices, see Hardwick. From above list of Papists, 1706, we see that Ursula Price was among

the servants, probably the old nurse. These persons also had annuities out of Croughton.

After this we come to more settled times, and owing to two long minorities, Mr. William Fermor upon his coming of age found himself in possession of a large sum of ready money. After the Continental tour, *de rigueur* in those days for young men of fashion, he returned home to rebuild the old Manor House, fallen into a sad state of ruin, and for this he employed the builder of Blackfriars Bridge, Robert Mylne.

Eleven years were occupied in the work, during which time the family lived in London, and nine years were taken up in fitting up the interior and redecorating the chapel, which appears to have been the same building all throughout.

While the family were living at Tusmore, tradition says that Mrs. Fitzherbert was a frequent guest, and that even she was married to the Prince Regent in the drawing-room. Her visits were most probable, being niece to Mrs. Fermor through the Erringtons, but the story of her marriage here is totally disproved by Mr. Charles Langdale in his *Memoirs* of that lady. Mr. Fermor gave himself to the improvement of his estates in the county, and abstained from mixing in political life, although he had been approached upon that subject by some of his neighbours. He lived much in London, and was in the confidence of Mr. Pitt, who consulted him freely upon the matter of Catholic Emancipation, then before Parliament.

He died in July, 1806, and was buried in Somerton Church. It is probably to this burial that the little incident mentioned by Mr. William Wing refers:—

'Dec. 2nd, 1865. More than fifty years ago my father, attracted by mere curiosity, attended the funeral at Somerton Church, of one of the Fermor family. At the conclusion of the service, after the mourners had retired and while the spectators were pressing round the grave, a person presumed to be a priest, pushed through the throng, threw some water out of a small bottle upon the coffin, uttered a short prayer in Latin, and hastily disappeared¹.'

With Mr. Fermor died the social influence of his family. His nine children all died unmarried. The eldest son, William Fermor, while in London, was appointed one of the Catholics to form the 'Board of British Catholics' which sat in 1808, but we hear no more of him in

¹ *Notes and Queries*, 3rd Series, vol. viii, p. 463. This notice is signed by William Wing.

public life. Impoverished, no doubt, by settlements upon his brothers and sisters, he left Tusmore, and lived some time at Croughton, afterwards at Hethe House, where he died on November 7, 1828, aged 57, being choked at table (as was said). He sold Somerton.

Bishop Milner came to Tusmore and gave confirmation there, in October, 1806¹.

The chapel at Tusmore had a certain air of mystery and romance about it, which possessed a curious interest. Built, or adapted according to the records we are able to consult, about or before the year 1642, by Mr. Henry Fermor upon his coming to this place, it survived two hundred years. When the house was rebuilt, begun in 1766 and finished in 1770, the chapel was redecorated: it was then described as a 'low building at the North-East corner reached by a doorway, from the first floor of the new house leading into the gallery.' This description would lead us to suppose that there was an outer door on the ground floor, and the gallery was the tribune for the family². This chapel continued in use until 1810, about which time Mr. Fermor let the house, but the old chapel was exempted from the lease and remained under the charge of the priest, until the property passed away from the Fermors by sale in 1857, and shortly after it was swept away with other old buildings. A singular tradition was current in the neighbourhood connected with this old chapel, and the present writer well remembers the Rev. Joseph Robson speaking about it. It was said that mysterious lights were seen floating over the closed building at night. Mr. Blomfield³ mentions it in this manner:—

'A suspicious circumstance occurred in the chapel during Mr. Barrington's residence, 1847-56; a light was seen within it and afterwards some ashes of burnt paper were found upon the floor. It was conjectured that some old documents connected with the chapel or parish church had been destroyed, but nothing certain was ever known, no clue to the mystery was ever discovered⁴.'

Here closes one chapter of this ancient Mission.

¹ Husenbeth's *Life*.

² Blomfield, *Tusmore*, p. 75.

³ *Tusmore*, p. 84.

⁴ There was at Croughton Mill a Frenchman named Louis Tavernier, who was in some way connected with the

Fermors, either as a confidential servant or humble friend. Outsiders used to remark upon the likeness between him and the family. It was his name which was connected with this incident of burning the papers.—M. H. S.

CONFIRMATIONS GIVEN AT THIS PLACE, FROM THE CONFIRMATION
BOOK OF THE BISHOP¹.

1772. *July* 19. 51 persons were confirmed at Hardwick belonging to this congregation (five of these were from Warkworth). This was probably while the new house (and chapel) at Tusmore was in course of construction. Pastor, the Rev. William Gillibrand, S.J.

1788. *Aug.* 24. In Sacello, Tresmoriensi. 58 persons were confirmed, seven of whom were from Warkworth. Bishop, Dr. Berington.

1806. *Oct.* 26. At Tusmore 69 people were confirmed. Bishop, Dr. Milner. Pastor, the Rev. Mr. Clerkson.

The villages whence the people came were Deddington, Somerton, Fulwell, Croughton, Fritwell, Souldern, Stratton Audley, Hethe, Goddington, Hardwick.

HARDWICK

The manor of Hardwick-Audley takes its name from one of its mediaeval proprietors; it formed part of the royal grant from Henry VIII to William Fermor of Somerton, and was owned by him some years prior to his acquiring Tusmore, which parish it adjoins. In 1580 Mr. Thomas Fermor bequeathed 'My chief mansion house in Hardwick-Audley to my servant John Bulleyne for life, remainder to his wife Joyce for life, remainder to my nephew Nicholas Fermor. Lands, etc., in Hardwick-Audley to my servant James Alwoode.' The presence of a rich Catholic family was beneficial in an unexpected manner to the parish of Hardwick, for it is remarked that owing to its being in the midst of the property of a Catholic family the church escaped the mutilation common in Puritan times, and the stained glass was intact in the windows in 1660. The Fermors themselves appear to have removed it to make way for their own heraldry, thus following a vain fancy of the age.

In 1633 the churchwardens presented two men to be answerable for the dilapidated condition of the churchyard mound; one was 'excommunicated' for answering the Court in a 'geeringe and dirisive manner and for keeping on his hat,' the second was John Cadwalider. We strongly suspect them of being 'papists,' especially the latter, for in 1706 was returned for Fringford 'John Cadwallida a professed papist².'

¹ This old Confirmation Book was kindly lent to me by Dr. Ilsley.

² Blomfield's *Hardwick and Stonyhurst MS.*

1672. 'Basil Fermor son of Richard Fermor Esqre and Frances his wife of Hardwick, March 4th¹.'

In 1754 almost the whole population of Hardwick-cum-Tusmore was Catholic, and the Vicar took the Curacy of Enstone and afterwards the Vicarage, having little to do at home².

From a list of confirmations belonging to the Bishop it appears that a confirmation was held at Hardwick in 1772. This was very probably while the house at Tusmore was rebuilding (see Tusmore). The Rev. W. Gillibrand, S.J., probably lived in the house at Hardwick. The two places seem to have been served simultaneously for some years.

As we have seen in our last chapter, Mr. William Fermor, the elder, died in July, 1806, and his son left Tusmore House. Upon the faith of an old parishioner, William Swetman of Souldern, we learn that the Rev. . . . Clarkson, 'an unfrocked priest,' was at Tusmore in 1806, and he signed the Confirmation list in October that same year. Tusmore House being let to Protestants, the chapel furniture was removed in 1810 to the Old Manor House at Hardwick, about a mile away, and the Rev. Samuel Corbishley took charge of the Mission the same year, living at Hardwick and serving the old congregation until his death in 1830. A private memorandum written in 1875 says:—

'The old chapel at Hardwick was in an attic, which runs the length of the house, about 30 feet long and 14 or 15 feet wide. There still remains at one end the evidence of its former use, i. e. a division which has been run up with lath and plaster where the Communion rail once was; now there is a door in the partition; [at the end there are two steps raised above the floor, and an arch on the wall where the altar stood³.'

Mr. Corbishley kept a small school at Hardwick, and was a person of very strict and austere living. From information gleaned from one of his pupils, the Rev. Ignatius Collingridge, we can see what manner of man he was. Mr. Collingridge became acquainted with Tusmore at his birth; his parents appear to have settled at Dover, and in a few years (circa 1813-14) he was sent to school at Hardwick, because there was no chapel sufficiently near to Dover to make it convenient to remain there.

'As fellow students I found in Mr. Corbishley's house, Alexander Broadway, who afterwards entered into business and failed after getting a large

¹ Burial Register of Somerton.

Part ii, p. 68.

² Wing's *Annals of Bicester Union*,

³ Mrs. Dolman of Souldern House.

family (his father was House Steward to the Duke of Buckingham and lost his life in immediate attendance upon his Grace), Samuel Whitaker, and Luke Barber¹. Whitaker went from Hardwick to the English College Lisbon and there became a Priest, and for a short time worked on the Mission in South Lincolnshire. He retired to Belgium, and died, I think, at Bruges. Luke Barber became a religious. I went with Whitaker to Lisbon which I was obliged by illness to leave, but after a few months freedom I got quite well and entered the Oscott College 'bout 1829.

Mr. Corbishley was first a master at Sedgeley Park. Thence he went to Lisbon, where being so old he was soon made a priest. He remained in Lisbon, I think, ten years, and during a good part of that time he acted as Interpreter to the Inquisition. Returning to England, he was put into some place subordinate to Dr. Fryer: his London course however was brief, and in about three or four years (I think) after his removal to Hardwick I found him there. As a specimen of Mr. Corbishley's mode of training boys may be mentioned a practice he had of rising in the dead of the night and saying his prayers and taking the discipline. Then he would take a large holy-water brush, and going to each bed souse the sleeper well with holy water, and then tell him to say his prayers for a short time and then go to sleep again. During one of the Lents which I spent with him, he not only abstained from meat through the forty days, but he eat only once in the day. At twelve at noon he took his one meal, generally salt cod, and took nothing else till noon of the following day. It is true he had no hard missionary work to get through, but then he was about sixty years of age and therefore no longer subject to the laws of the Church regulating fasting. Butter-milk was his ordinary and favourite beverage, with which he was supplied by the farmers of the neighbourhood².

Mr. Corbishley died on Christmas Day, 1830, and was buried at Overthorpe: later on his body was removed to Banbury.

From the Diary of the Rev. P. Hersent, of Overthorpe:—

1830. 'Dec. 24th, Friday: went to give the rites of the Church to Mr. Corbishley.

25th, X'tmas Day, at 10 o'clock, departed this life the Rev. Samuel Corbishley.

27th, Monday (Mass) for Mr. Corbishley.

30th, Thursday, preparation for the burial of Mr. C. buried on the 31st Friday.'

¹ Dom Luke Bernard Barber, b. Macclesfield, 1790; Prof. at St. Greg., 1808; ord. 1814; Prior of St. Greg., 1818-30; Vicar of nuns at Salford, 1830, and at Stanbrook till death. Died Dec. 29,

1850. *Necrology*, O. S. B.

² Extracts from letters addressed in 1888 to Mr. George Dolman by the Rev. I. Collingridge of Clifton, Bristol.

The two following papers show the zeal both of the Pastor and Congregation of Hardwick:—

From the Baptismal Register at Hethel, 1810.

‘I arrived at Hardwick 17th Sept. 1810, and never could discover any register whatever kept by any of my predecessors. I have endeavoured as conscientiously as I was able to draw up the following; and in the best and easiest way to find out every individual contained in it. For this end I have given the head of each family, a separate leaf for himself and children, etc., and the Page after his name in the Catalogue of Names will serve to guide my successor in the Mission how and where to find with ease what he enquires for. Only those consequently were baptised by me that were born after my arrival as dated above, 17 Sep. 1810.

This declaration signed with my own hand.

SAMUEL CORBISHLEY.

I also declare that I took the greatest care to baptise all the children as soon as possible, after they were born; so that by far the greatest part were baptised either on the day they were born or the day after.

SAMUEL CORBISHLEY.

N.B. I severely reprimanded those that were negligent in giving me early information of their Children.’

From *Catholicon*, edited by Keating, vol. v, p. 82, 1817.

‘To the Rev. Sam Corbishley, Pastor of the Catholic Congregation of Hardwick.

I beg leave on behalf of the Curate of Zurich, to return grateful acknowledgments for your having read his address to your Congregation, and for their responding so promptly and so bountifully to that pathetic appeal. I conceive it a duty I owe to you, to the pious benevolence of your flock, to the gratitude of the Curate and Catholics of Zurich, and to the spirit of emulation it is so desirable to promote for the erection and support of dignified Temples destined to be honoured with the Real Presence of the Divine Majesty, to edify my readers with the particulars of the pious liberality of the Pastor and Congregation of Hardwick. I have the honour to be, etc. ED.

Amount in cash, £19 6s. 0d.

A fine purple silk vestment, with yellow silk lace and fringe, and a veil to correspond.

A fine black silk do., lined with black silk, silver lace and fringe, a veil, etc., to correspond.

A rich white damask flowered silk for making vestments.

Silk flowered brocade to make green vestments.

Two albs full trimmed with broad wrought lace.

Altar cloths, etc.

A green flowered silk stole, yellow silk fringe.

A large size silver gilt chalice and paten.

A small picture in oil of the Assumption.'

The ordinary burial-ground of the Catholics of Somerton and Tusmore was the parish churchyard of Hardwick-cum-Tusmore. In the church still remain six slabs in the nave, beginning at the west end: '✠ Carstin Francis Hereman, died Sep. 20, 1687. ✠ Winifred Freeman, wife of Basill Freeman, Aug. 1st, 1754. Here lyeth the body of Ralph Hatton, Gent: who departed this life the tenth of Feby. 1693-4, aged 81 years and 8 months. Requiescat in pace. Also Mary his beloved wife and widdow lyes buried within his grave, who departed this life Oct. 4, 1717, in ye year of her age 88.' (For Hatton, see Somerton.) They appear to have belonged to Halton, Bucks., a manor belonging to the Fermors. One of the family in 1634 married Norris of Islip, and is buried there. '✠ In Memory of Anne, wife of Nicholas Saers of London, died July 11, 1721, aged 33. ✠ Edmund Reynolds, Gent., 10 Jan. 177? ✠ Price July 7, 1733. R.I.P.'

In aisle: '✠ Samuel Tooley, March 16, 1721-2. Aged 73.' (N.B.—He was Steward to the Fermors.) 'Mrs. Ursula Freeman, who died 9 March, 1726, aged 76, and Basille Freeman, son of Ursula Freeman, who departed Dec. 30, 1729, aged 46.'

In chancel: Probably William Lyne; inscription defaced, but on same stone . . . 'Wife of William Lyne, 1622. ✠ Robert Day died June 5th, 1712, aged 74. Mary, wife of Robert Day, died Aug. 16, 1732, aged 84. Robert Day, son of Robert and Martha Day, died July 7, 1747.' N.B.—From being buried in the chancel, these probably lived in the Manor House. The whole church is flagged with these burial stones. (Visited Sept. 6, 1899.)

In the churchyard: 'Mary, wife of Edmund Collingridge, March 6, 1797. Edmund Collingridge, March 15, 1804, aged 71. Edmund Day, son of Edmund Collingridge, 1810, aged 11.'

In the St. Clement's Register¹, Oxford, mention is made of Mr. Thomas Day, and Mary his wife, of Fritwell, late of Hardwick.

In the same Register the anniversaries are mentioned of Mr. Christopher Hatton and his wife, June 24 and 30, no year.

These Days are the same, I believe, as Day of Dorchester (q. v.) and Somerton. For the origin of the Day family, see Dorchester.

¹ Catholic Chapel.

HETHE

On Christmas morning, 1830, people came from the neighbouring villages to hear Mass, and found to their grief and dismay that their respected Pastor during twenty years was no more. His illness had been sudden, and doubtless the anxiety of sending to Overthorpe for the nearest priest to attend him had prevented the warning to the Faithful. Within a week the Rev. Alfred McGuire was appointed to the Mission, but he found himself without a dwelling either for his own head or for the Blessed Sacrament! Upon the death of Mr. Fermor in 1828, it was reported among the people that Mr. Corbishley would not be disturbed during his life. Now the end had come, the old Manor House, with the whole of the Tusmore estate, was at once closed to Catholics. Mass was now said first in one house, then in another; generally it was in a little house facing the road to Shelswell as one goes up the village street of Hethe. The new priest, like a zealous Missionary, lost no time in setting about the work of providing a church for his flock, about 350 people. He bought a piece of ground lying between Tusmore and Hethe, and began looking out for subscriptions.

The next year was occupied in building. The *Catholic Directory* for 1832 published the following appeal:—

‘Hardwick, Bicester. In appealing to the charity of the public through this medium, the Catholics of Hardwick and the neighbouring villages trust that the distressing situation to which they are reduced will meet with that attention from the charitably disposed which their case so justly deserves.

The circumstances which have rendered this appeal absolutely necessary on their part are briefly as follows:

The estate on which the chapel at Hardwick was situated having, since the death of the late possessor, passed into the hands of those whose sentiments on religion are not in accordance with theirs, their pastor has been under the necessity of leaving it. The consequence of this is that 350 souls are now actually destitute of a place where they may be enabled to be present at the adorable sacrifice of the Mass.

They have, however, commenced erecting a chapel at Hethe; but their means are so far from being able to accomplish it that, unless they are assisted in their pious design by the charitable exertions of their more wealthy brethren, they will be under the necessity of suspending their undertaking.’

This appeal was so far successful that the new church was opened within a year and a half of leaving Hardwick.

A substantial cut stone building, which cost £800, was erected, but

probably this sum did not cover the cost of house and school ; of this we have no account. The burial-ground was acquired later, so that Mr. McGuire's sister, who died at Hethe, was buried at Heythrop in March, 1835¹.

The above extract from the *Catholic Directory* and the following are both printed in Blomfield's *Hethe*.

In the *Catholic Magazine*, 1832, we find the account of the completion of the work :—

‘ On Tuesday, 22nd May, a new chapel was opened at Hethe in Oxfordshire, the erection of which does great credit to the taste and zeal of the Rev. A. McGuire. The Right Rev. Dr. Walsh preached on the occasion and sang Mass, attended by the Rev. Messrs. McGuire, Foley, Rock, Duckett, Fox, Newsham, Heffernan, and Comberbach. The chapel was crowded. The collection amounted to upwards of £62.’

Mr. McGuire remained at Hethe until 1847, when, as it is said, finding himself still burdened with the debt incurred for the chapel, he withdrew and went to Australia, where he worked for many years as a Missionary. He returned to England a few years later, and discharged all the pecuniary obligations he had left behind. Age and infirmities being now come upon him he retired to his native place, Penkhull, near Stoke-on-Trent, and there died on the 8th April, 1875, in the 75th year of his age. He had been educated at Oscott.

Although the chapel was built and in serviceable condition, much remained to be done, and the poverty of the congregation was still too apparent. A letter from the Dowager Lady Arundel shows in what manner it struck a visitor². Her ladyship was at the time at Stowe upon a visit to her brother the Duke of Buckingham.

‘ August 26th 1838 . . . Do you think that Mr. Pugin would, as it is for charity and the “ Church,” draw me a little sketch for an altar to be made of oak? The poor little church at Hethe, which I attend whilst here, is a structure of tolerable Gothic, though much too wide for its length and out of proportion, and the altar is horrible. I want to give them a decent plain cheap altar and tabernacle, such as a country carpenter could execute, but very correct and plain Gothic. The windows are plain lancet.’

Later on these windows were filled with stained glass, erected to

¹ Part of the reminiscences of Mr. Corbishley's death and the subsequent movements of Mr. McGuire are supplied by Dr. Sweeney, who had them from old people who remembered the

facts.

² This letter was published in the *Weekly Register*, Aug. 5, 1891. It was addressed to her son-in-law, Mr. Phillipps, of ‘ Grace Dieu.’

the memory of members of the Collingridge family, and executed by Barnett of Leith, who was closely connected with the Collingridges.

The Mission continued all but dependent upon the contributions of the congregation for assistance.

Upon her death Miss Frances Fermor left her fortune to the son of her maid upon his verbal promise to leave at his death £1500 each to St. John's Wood, London, and to Hethe. In his will (Feb. 1879) he left the money to a friend, Mrs. Cain, and her daughters. Mrs. Cain died at the age of ninety, her daughters having predeceased her, and then at last the money was paid as desired by Miss Fermor.

Extract from Register of Holy Trinity Mission, Hethe:—

'Miss Fermor died at 4 Paragon Terrace, Richmond, near London, on Feb. 13, 1847. Maurice Watts died Aug. 28, 1852. His wife, Amelia Elizabeth, was buried at Richmond, near London, Aug. 30, 1849. Mrs. Cain was buried at Richmond on the 13th Feby., 1879. Miss Fermor left the interest of £1,500 to M. Watts (afterwards to go to Hethe), and he left it to Mrs. Cain for her life.'

The receipt for Consols for £1500 is dated 3rd Nov. 1879.

Taylor Bequest. 'There is £297 5s. 2d. 3 per cent Consols invested with the Charity Commissioners, standing in the names of Edwin Clark, Owen Clark, and Thomas Collingridge.' No date given.

'In 1887 Miss R. Collingridge handed £50 to the Rev. V. Holcroft, the interest of the same being £2 to come to Hethe.'

In the will of Miss Fermor, printed with the large pedigree:—

'Frances Fermor, of Richmond, Surrey, Spinster. In case I should die within 10 miles of London, my body to be buried under Paddington Church, where my mother and others are buried. All my personal estate to my friend Maurice Watts of Richmond, Esqre. 1840-1847.'

It would seem that Watts was son of a Collingridge. See marriage Register at Oxford.

The 'Taylor Bequest' consisted of two cottages at Croughton and some at Evenley, which were sold by Dr. Sweeney, by Canon Estcourt's leave; Mr. Taylor was a farmer at Godington who became a Catholic under Mr. Robson's care; he removed to Evenley, where he was attended by him before his death, which occurred there.

In the year 1852 the Mission profited to the extent of £50 a year paid by the Trustees of Mr. Samuel Cox, of Weymouth Street, London, for Mass to be said every Sunday at Souldern. This was continued until 1868 by the Rev. Joseph Robson driving over to

Souldern on Saturday afternoon, saying an early Mass on Sunday, and returning to duplicate at Hethe. This he continued to do for fifteen years without missing more than twice, once owing to deep snow, and once to attend his old mother upon her death-bed. She died 1865, aged ninety.

The Rev. Joseph Robson succeeded Mr. McGuire in 1847. He had been educated in Rome, and had been on the Mission at Newport, Isle of Wight, during 1838-9. He was sent to Chelsea in the latter year, which place he left in 1844. The following years are blank owing to some misunderstanding with his Bishop, but Gillow in his *Dictionary* says that the Rev. J. Robson went to Heythrop in 1847, and thence to Hethe in 1848. The last year of his life was one of infirmity, and he was assisted by the Rev. Philip Sweeney until his death, which occurred upon September 2, 1870.

For one month the Rev. Charles Malfait served Hethe, and was replaced by the above Rev. Philip Sweeney on October 8, and he remained there until November 2, 1888, when the Rev. Joseph Bonner took charge of the place the same day.

In the little 'God's acre' attached to the chapel lie many members of the families of Collingridge, Palmer, Attenborow, &c.

Dr. J. T. Dolman was buried here in March, 1867; he died at Souldern House, where he had lived for fifteen years; his widow, who died at Woodchester, near Stroud, Dec. 21, was buried here on Dec. 29, 1891; these were parents to the present writer. Four of their grandchildren also lie here: Thomas Fitzalan Stapleton, 1859; Frideswide Stapleton, 1877; Mark Stapleton, 1884; and Cecily Stapleton, 1885.

'The Rev. Dennis Durcan, who departed this life on the 6th May, 1845.'

This good priest fell a victim to the prejudices of his neighbours of Aylesbury, where he had tried to establish a Mission, but met with so many privations and persecutions from the people that his health gave way.

I. H. S.

'The Rev. Joseph Robson, 23 years Pastor of this church of the most Holy Trinity, who died on 2nd Sep. 1870, age 66 years. R. I. P.'

Close to him lie his mother and sister who for many years kept house with him.

The first person buried in the burial-ground was Mr. Alexander Broadway, who was house steward to the Duke of Buckingham. He was killed accidentally, while trying a new lift for his master, who had grown too stout to go upstairs without assistance.

'Upon the 26th March 1903 was interred in this burial ground the Honble. Bryan John Stapleton who died at 30 Leckford Road, Oxford, upon the 21st March, aged 72. R. I. P.'

COLLINGRIDGE FAMILY.

This family for many generations was the mainstay of the several Catholic congregations supported by the Fermor family. In the county of Bucks. they had been established as gentry from 12th of Henry VI, when the name of William Colyngrygge is returned among the county gentry as of Towersey. Dr. G. F. Lee, of All Saints, Lambeth, himself an Oxfordshire man, notes the death of Dr. Collingridge, and says 'he was one of the Collingridges of Towersey and Thame.

'Henry Collingridge, it is believed, married one of the heiresses of Baldington, and assumed their arms, 3 fleurs de lys. A daughter of Bartholomew Collingridge of Towersey married as 2nd wife Geoffrey Dormer of Thame, and had 12 children¹.'

She, being an heiress and heir general to the Arundels, brought a number of manors in Oxfordshire to the Dormers, probably leaving her own family in a less prosperous position. They come before us as tenants upon the Fermor estates. Many are mentioned among the Catholics at Somerton in 1706, and they followed the fortunes of the Mission to Hardwick and Hethe and occupied several farms around Tusmore. At Godington two farms were rented by them, another at Fritwell; we find Richard Collingridge migrating to Overey and marrying there; another family dwelt at Islip, and the name was still continued at Somerton.

During the last century this family gave a bishop to the Church in the person of the Right Rev. Peter Bernardine Collingridge, born on one of these Oxfordshire farms on March 10, 1757². He took the habit of St. Francis at Douay in 1770; after several years' teaching

¹ See *Gleanings for Oxon.*, by G. F. Bodley; and Fuller's *Worthies*.

Lee: *Top. Oxon. MSS. C. 6*, p. 172,

² See Oliver's *Collections*, p. 267.

spent in the convent at Douay, and fulfilling the office of Guardian, he was nominated President of the Franciscan Academy at Baddesley in Warwickshire, and later on he served the Portuguese Chapel in London. He was consecrated Bishop of Thespiæ at St. Edmund's on Oct. 11, 1807, and became Vicar Apostolic of the Western District. Dr. Collingridge died suddenly at Cannington on March 3, and was buried there upon his seventy-second birthday, 1829. The Bishop had two nephews in the church, who were born at Pimlico farm near Tusmore. First the Rev. Peter (Canon) Collingridge, for many years Rector of Holy Trinity, Bermondsey, and for the last three years of his life stationed at Winchester, where he died June 17, 1866. His brother, the Rev. Ignatius Collingridge, was born on June 30, 1807, and as a little boy was under Mr. Corbishley at Hardwick, which place he left when not quite twelve years old. He made his studies at Lisbon and Oscott, and was ordained priest by Dr. Walsh, Dec. 6, 1831. From the year 1833 to 1835 he was stationed at St. Chad's, Birmingham; at last he went to Winchester, where, with certain intervals of absence, he remained for thirty-five years. Retiring to the convent of Clifton Wood, he died there in his eighty-second year, June 11, 1889, and was buried at Winchester. Another member of the family, the Rev. Thomas Collingridge, S.J., was born at Pimlico on July 3, 1771, and baptized by Father Barrow, S.J., Chaplain at Tusmore. He once filled the office of Prefect at Stonyhurst, and was sent on May 22, 1805, to the Society's old Mission at Hooton, Cheshire, where he remained for forty years, after which he went to Neston, and died there Nov. 11, 1854, aged eighty-three. He was one of the first five priests who arrived at Stonyhurst in 1794 from Liège².

Alfred Collingridge, a Papal Zouave, was killed at the battle of Mentana, on Nov. 3, 1867. A window in the church at Hethe is erected to his memory.

PRIESTS AT TUSMORE.

The first resident priest whom we meet with at Tusmore is the learned Franciscan Friar, Anthony Le Grand, who was born at Douay and entered the Franciscan Order there. For many years he served the Oxfordshire Mission, and was elected Provincial in 1698, and died the following year². Wood mentions him in August, 1695, as being

¹ See Foley's *Records of S.J.*, and *Catholic Directory Obituary*.

² Oliver's *Collections*, p. 553.

‘tutor to the eldest son of Henry Farmer, Esqre., of Tusmore, where he now lives¹.’

1705. ‘Samuel Clark à S. Henrico, O.S.F., resided at this time at the house of “Lord” Fermore, vulgo Tusmore; he died in 1707².’

The *Old Missal* quoted below was an altar Missal belonging to Hethe containing the registers of the Fermor family, lent to Mrs. Dolman by the Rev. J. Robson.

‘*Thomas Brooke*, S.J., on 10th June, 1701, gave himself up to God in the Society: for many years he served the Mission of Tusmore: retiring to Ghent in an honoured old age, he meekly departed this life on 6th March, 1761: aet. 82.³’

1750. *Mr. Brooke* baptized a child at Waterperry.

‘*Joseph Barrow*, born at Westby in the Fylde, co. Lancs., 27th Feb. 1740, at the age of 18 joined the Society: for a short time he was Incumbent at Tusmore, and at Exeter, then at Arlington Court, Devon, but for the last 36 years of his life was settled at St. Helen’s. . . . Died suddenly 5th Jan. 1813, and was buried near his own altar⁴.’

1752. ‘*Charles Booth*, the Rev., of Tusmore, Oxon.: Devises and Executors to his Will, Cornelius Morphy of St. George’s, Hanover Square, and John Jackson of Kiddington, Oxon.⁵

Father Charles Booth, born 8th Sep. 1707: became a Novice in 1724 and professed 2nd Feb. 1743. After serving the English Mission he was appointed Penitentiary at Loretto; then was selected Tutor for Henry VIII, Lord Arundell, and in 1762 declared Rector of the English College, Rome. Died at Wardour, 11 May 1797, and buried in the vault beneath the chapel⁶.’

Dean Blomfield in *Tusmore* says he was brother to the celebrated conveyancer, Mr. James Booth; he was born at St. Germain’s, Sept. 8, 1704, *alias* ‘Brown.’

1755. ‘*Mr. William Newton* dyed at Tusmore 19 of Oct.⁷

William Newton junior (probably native of Lincolnshire), born 30 Oct. 1718: entered the Noviciate in 1736: was for some time Penitentiary at Loretto. On his return was professed in England in 1754⁸.

John Butler, Lord Cahir, born 8th Aug. 1727: embraced the Institute of St. Ignatius 1745, and was ordained priest at Liège 1753. This Rev.

¹ Wood, *Athenae*, vol. iv, p. 233, ed. Bliss.

⁵ *Historical MSS.*, App. x, p. 183.

⁶ *Biography*, S. J., with a long account.

² *Franciscans in England*, Thaddeus, p. 212.

⁷ Catholic Register of Waterperry.

^{3, 4} Oliver’s *Biography*, S. J.

⁸ *Biography*, S. J.

Father lived to inherit the title of Lord Cahir and died at Hereford 20 June, 1786¹.

Was at Tusmore in 1756.

Francis Green baptized a child at Waterperry, Jan. 6, 1775².

'Francis Green, born at Liverpool March 1, 1748 entered the Order in 1764. This excellent scholar and promising Missionary was carried off prematurely at Tusmore in 1774 O.S., aged 26³.

William Gillibrand, junior brother to F. Richard Gillibrand, was born Dec. 22nd, 1715. After serving the Missions of Slatedelf, Southworth, Tusmore and Exeter, he came into the possession of the family estate in Lancashire and died at Chorley, 22nd March, 1779, aet. 64⁴.

He was here on July 19, 1772, probably living at Hardwick while Tusmore House was rebuilding. There was confirmation there on that day.

1773. 'Gillibrand, William, Tusmore⁵.'

1767. 'The Rev. Thomas Walmsley⁶.'

Thomas Walmsley, born in Lancashire 19 July, 1716, O. S. After finishing the study of Rhetoric at St. Omer's, reached Watten, 7 Sept. 1737, as a candidate for the Society; was made Spiritual Coadjutor in 1748. After serving Stockheld Park for some time he retired to and eventually died at Rixton in his native county, 5 January 1792, aet. 76⁷.

1768. 'Mr. Holmes⁸.'

Probably Father Thomas Holmes, O.S.F., Provincial in years 1740, 1748, 1749, and 1758. Died in 1772-3⁹.

1770-5. 'John Jones¹⁰.'

Perhaps the following? 'John Jones, junior, born in Monmouthshire, July 7, 1721, and joined the Novices in 1741. This professed Father died in London, May 31, 1803. He published a Treatise entitled *Sentimental and Practical Theology*, 8vo, London, 1777. A translation from the French, undertaken at the request of Christina Lady Arundell, to whom it is dedicated¹¹.'

1773. 'Thomas Bennet¹².'

1777. 'Thomas Hadley¹³.'

¹ *Biography, S.J.*

² See Waterperry Register.

³ *Biography, S.J.* See also Foley's *Records*, vol. vii, p. 314.

⁴ *Biography, S.J.*

⁵ Foley's *Records*, vol. v, p. 949.

⁶ *Old Missal* at Hethe.

⁷ *Biography, S.J.*

⁸ *Old Missal* at Hethe.

⁹ *Franciscans in England.*

¹⁰ *Old Missal.*

¹¹ *Biography, S.J.*

¹² *Old Missal.*

¹³ *Ib.*

Dom Gilbert Dolan says : 'Dom Edmund *John* Hadley. Professed at St. Gregory's Douay, now Downside, *here* in 1777, and moved to London.' Was at Waterperry, 1773-4, at Coughton till 1777. Died at Pocklington, Yorks., 1803¹.

1779. '*Joseph Brown*'².

1790. *Father William* 'Augustine' *Kemble*, O.S.F., Chaplain at Tusmore, died at Birmingham, July 31, 1801, aged 59. Was at Tusmore about 1790³. The family of *Kemble* produced the martyr of Hereford, *Father John Kemble*, *Father William Kemble*, and the two actors, *John Philip* and *George Stephen Kemble*⁴.

Dr. Milner confirmed at Tusmore in October, 1806.

The last Jesuit Missioner mentioned at Tusmore was *Father Charles Leslie*, of Waterperry and Oxford. He was here before he went to Waterperry⁵.

1806. The Rev. Mr. *Clarkson* here this year. Old Wm. *Swetman* of Souldern described him as an 'unfrocksed' priest. He signed the list of confirmed Oct. 26, 1806. '*Father "John" Clarkson* born in 1773. was for seventeen years Chaplain at *Ingatestone Hall*, in *Essex*, and was buried there, Feb. 13, 1823, with an inscription in verse upon his tombstone⁶.' May not *this* be the priest alluded to by Wm. *Swetman* as an 'unfrocksed'? Being an illiterate person he may have meant 'discalced.' The dates tally pretty well. 'Student at *Douai*. Rev. *John Clarkson*, born at *Grimsargh Lancs.*, escaped from imprisonment with the rest of the College Nov. 24, 1793. Ordained priest at *Old Hall Green*; died Feb. 13, 1823⁷.' Are these two separate persons?

1810. The Rev. *Samuel Corbishley*. He appears to have been at Tusmore in 1809. He began the Register on Sept. 17 at *Hardwick*. Died Dec. 25, 1830, and buried at *Overthorpe*; removed to *Banbury*.

Dr. Milner confirmed at *Hardwicke* in Sept. 1815. The people who then occupied the house seem to have been named *Salmon*.

1831. The Rev. *Alfred McGuire*. Built the chapel at *Hethe* and retired. Died in 1875, April 8, aged 74. '*The Rev. Alfred*

¹ *Necrology, O. S. B.*

² *Old Missal.*

³ See *Franciscans in England*, Thaddeus, pp. 181, 260.

⁴ *Gillow's Dict.*, vol. iii, p. 685. He

had been at *Warkworth*, see *supra*, p. 41.

⁵ See *Foley's Records*.

⁶ *Carmel in England*, p. 385.

⁷ *Merry England*, Sept. 1887, p. 322; the Haydock papers.

Maguire has been appointed to Hardwick in place of the Rev. S. Corbishley, deceased ¹.

1847. The Rev. Joseph Robson. Appointed to Hethe. Died in 1870, Sept. 2, aged 66.

1870. The Rev. Charles Malfait, for one month here, and afterwards priest at Sedgely. Returned to Belgium, where he died, circa 1894.

1870. The Rev. Philip Sweeney, who had assisted Mr. Robson during the last year of his life. Removed to Radford.

1889. The Rev. Joseph Bonner.

BICESTER

The beginning of this 'Mission' station is as follows. Dr. Sweeney, of Hethe, bought an open piece of land in Bicester, of nearly half an acre in size, on the 2nd of February, 1882, for which he paid £350. The building of the School Chapel was begun on the 2nd of October, the same year. It was soon completed, and opened with the attendance of children on the 19th of March, 1883, and Mass was first said in it on Easter Sunday, 25th of March following. The building and furnishing cost £550, making a total on the whole outlay of £900, all raised by the exertions of Dr. Sweeney. At the time of the opening the Catholics in Bicester and Stratton-Audley numbered thirty-five.

After the departure of Dr. Sweeney from Hethe, the charge of Bicester was undertaken by the Rev. S. Glossop, of Souldern.

In 1901 the Rev. Charles Bowen, of Banbury, bought a convenient house on the Oxford Road, called 'South View,' for the sum of £450, and forthwith opened negotiations with some exiled French nuns who were seeking a new home in our land. They belonged to a congregation of Benedictines called 'Olivetans,' and had been established at Igoville near Evreux in Normandy. Their origin was pathetic, and should appeal strongly to us English, to whom the Lord's Day is sacred. A French lady, Mademoiselle le Chevallier, preferred to lay her head upon the block of the guillotine, rather than violate the Sunday by carrying on a trade: the sudden death of Robespierre reprieved her, with many another victim, and in gratitude to Divine

¹ *Cath. Mag.*, June, 1831.

Providence for her salvation she founded the house in Normandy for a perpetual thank-offering, where prayer might continually ascend to Heaven.

Two nuns took possession of their Bicester house on the 17th of February, 1902, and strive to obtain a living by teaching.

Count Arthur Moore assured the nuns a pension of £100 per annum for three years, continuing until his death.

Mass was said in the School Chapel by priests coming either from Buckingham or Begbroke.

Two years later on January 17, 1904, the Rev. A. Costedoat, a Basque priest, arrived at Bicester, from Bétharram in the Hautes Pyrénées, whither he has been followed by some of his brethren. Bétharram is well known in the South of France as an ancient place of pilgrimage to a shrine of the Blessed Virgin.

CHESTERTON, NEAR BICESTER

In our introductory chapter, p. 1, we stated that Mr. Bourne, of Chesterton, kept five priests in his house in 1583.

The Bourne family pedigree is certified both in 1574 and 1634, and there were two branches—one at Wendlebury, the other here.

From the unpublished MS. by the late Dean Blomfield, of a *History of Chesterton*, it appears that in the middle of the sixteenth century Richard Bourne, or Borne, was living in the old manor-house upon the property once belonging to Oseney Abbey. He rebuilt the house and renamed it 'Chesterton Lodge.' The old water-mill and a small park around were part of the property. This, in the early part of the eighteenth century, passed to another family, and was eventually burnt down, the site being now occupied by a modern house.

PART II. SECTION II

FRITWELL, SOULDERN, GODINGTON,
AMBROSEDEN, MERTON, NOKE

*FAMILIES OF COX, KILBY, LONGUEVILLE,
BUSBY, PIGOTT, MILD MAY, HALL*



FRITWELL

MANY of the villages around Hethe can only claim a cursory notice from the want of records concerning their Catholicity, but Fritwell and Souldern each may call for an independent paper.

Fritwell may be said to hold an intermediate position between the Catholic congregations of Hardwick and Souldern, and was doubtless for some years, owing to the presence of Catholic families, in a position to give shelter to a priest and to assemble the faithful around the Altar.

The early history of Fritwell has an interest to us from one of its two manors having descended by marriage to the great family of Butler, Dukes of Ormonde, and still bears, after them, the name of 'Ormondsetown' or 'Ormond's Manor.' For generations the Butlers were connected with several Oxfordshire villages, and intermarried with the Simeons of Pyrton (q. v.) and the Spencers of Yarnton. In 1580 the manor of Ormond became the property of the Fermors¹.

The second manor, including the advowson of the church, has passed through many hands since it belonged to the Earl of Rutland in Henry VIII's time. In 1702 the lease was bought by Samuel Cox, Esq., of Farningham Lodge, in Kent, upon his marriage with Alicia Kilby, of Souldern; he at that time holding land in Fritwell, including the lease of the 'Ormond Manor' from Mr. Fermor. Thus for about sixteen years the whole of Fritwell was in Catholic hands.

¹ See will of Thomas Fermor, Somerton, *supra*, p. 67.

'The Minister presents Samuel Cox, Gentleman; Alice Cox, his wife; Catherine and William Hoare, man and wife; Francis Fleming, a servant; Margaret Robins; Edmund Perkins, maulster, and Elizabeth Collet,' as Recusants¹. Mr. Cox died in 1712, and we find in 1716, 'Alicia Cox of Oxford, widow, Leasehold estate at Fritwell for residue of term of twenty-one years as administratrix to Samuel Cox, late of Fritwell, her husband, deceased. Sir Edward Longueville, Baronet, tenant at £32 os. 0d. Other tenants, William Horne (or Hoare, both names occur at Somerton), George Badger and Rowland George, paying £52 10s. 0d., and £89 10s. 0d.'²

Mr. Cox was a member of the Temple, and son of Gabriel Cox, of Farningham, Kent, who followed James II to St. Germain, and was there killed whilst hunting in the forest³. In like manner Sir Edward Longueville was a sufferer for his loyalty to the King. A Catholic, he was made Sheriff of Bucks. by James⁴, and he sold the manor of Longueville-Billing in Northants to assist his sovereign, upon the very day on which the troops deserted His Majesty at Blackheath. A few years later Sir Edward sold his estate at Wolverton, Bucks., to Dr. Radcliffe, the physician, and retired to Fritwell. Very shortly after he met with his death at the Bicester races. Hearne gives this account :—

'Aug. 20, 1718. Yesterday began the Horse race at Bisseter, when a very unfortunate accident happened. Sir Ed. Longueville, a Roman Catholic of Buckinghamshire, having received some affront from a Clown, rode after him on purpose to teach him better manners, and as he reach'd over his Horse's head to lash the Fellow with his Whip, his Horse stumbled. Sir Edw. was thrown off and the Horse falling upon him, bruised his head and other places, so much that he died this Day. He was a Gent of good reputation⁵.'

He was buried at Fritwell, where Rawlinson remarks shortly after, 'the church was in mourning for him.'

Mrs. Alicia Cox, the widow, died in 1729, after which the property was sold to the Wakes of Northants, with whom the Catholic associations vanish, to reappear however for a short time in 1784, when Mr. Henry Fermor, upon his marriage, came to reside at the Manor House. Mr. Fermor died at Bath without issue, and Fritwell went

¹ *Stonyhurst MSS.*, 1706.

and Blomfield's *Fritwell*.

² *Cosin's List*.

⁵ Hearne, *Diary*, vol. vi, p. 215,

³ Private information from the family.

O. H. S.

⁴ See *Burke's Extinct Baronetage*,

to his wife's family, the Willes, and was sold by them in 1850. An offer was made for the house to the Benedictine nuns at Colwich for their intended affiliation, but it was not accepted. In later days Catholicity has again dawned upon Fritwell. The last occupier of the old house, Mr. Garner, joining the Church in 1897, has obtained leave from Rome to have Mass said again within its precincts.

No account of Fritwell would be complete without the mention of the 'ghost room,' which probably covers the old hiding-places of the priest and the humble little oratory in which the faithful assembled.

The few words following were written by Mrs. Dolman, of Souldern, than whom there could be no more sympathetic witness¹ :—

'In 1852 the aspect of the place was this; over the drawing-room was a long narrow attic, and at the further end a cupboard fitted up with shelves; upon pulling the shelves forward they all came out together with the back of the cupboard, and behind, beneath a cross-beam, a person could creep through into a small room at the end of the gable. There was a very much worn old fireplace, the room was divided into two, and there was one small window behind a chimney stack. The popular story called the inner room a "human dog-kennel," and supposed that Sir Edward here kept an idiot brother for fourteen years, about the length of his own tenancy, until he was ultimately starved to death. A well-authenticated tragedy which occurred in the family of the succeeding occupants has doubtless been mixed up with the tradition that a priest habitually dwelt here.'

Some members of the Collingridges lived for many years in an old house in Fritwell, and to this house, we may suppose, was transferred the honour of sheltering the priest and collecting the faithful. The Rev. Ignatius Collingridge, in a letter², says:—

'I used to see the father of Bishop Collingridge now and then; he was a very old man, 93, and his wife, my grandmother, 82. I saw him weeding his garden at Fritwell a short time before he died. During the time I knew him he lived nowhere but at Fritwell, to which place Mr. Corbishley used to go and say mass periodically. Mr. Corbishley had been many times called to go and administer the last rites to him, but always found him better than he expected: so he said he would not go any more till he had better advice of his state. At the next call he therefore did not go, and the poor man died without the Sacraments.'

¹ This account, with the history of another curious circumstance connected with the house but not with Catholic matters, is printed in Blomfield's *Fritwell* and in the Oxfordshire Archaeo-

logical Society's papers, *Fritwell*, Part xi, 1888.

² Letter to the Rev. George Dolman, 1888.

SOULDERN

The manor of Souldern has come down through Catholic hands from the Reformation until the year 1904.

Early in the sixteenth century it belonged to a branch of the Throckmortons, who have left memorials of their dead in the church. The family ending in four heiresses, the property was broken up and sold. A list of Recusants in the county of Oxford remaining at liberty, 1592, contains the name of John Stutsburie, of Soldern. In 1610 John Weedon married the daughter of John Stutsburie, or Stutchberry, and by a deed made that year the manor passed from Stutsburie to Weedon. This family were widely spread over the neighbouring counties, the Souldern branch owning property at Longdon, co. Stafford, and another at Hanley Castle, Worcestershire, while numerous traces of the name are found in Bucks. and Berks.

The Civil War found John Weedon with his two grown-up sons ardent supporters of the King, and they consequently suffered sequestration of two-thirds of their estates at Souldern and Longdon as 'papists and delinquents.' Prosperity did not return to the family; they continued as Lords of the Manor for a couple of generations, but at last sank into poverty, and the last John Weedon died in 1710. The Weedon family bore arms as early as Henry III, and Edmund de Wedone was Constable of Wallingford Castle in 18th Edward I.

A 'widow Weedon,' who was assisted by the parish, was not the widow of the last John Weedon here mentioned. To all appearance the latter was sister to Charles Howse, of Kimble, and had her own fortune, returning to Bucks. after her husband's death¹.

The *Records of the Jesuits* contain many notices of members of this family, and the *Douai Diaries* give us the names of two who took the College oath as pupils, Joseph in 1697 and Bernard in 1700. The trials of Catholic parents in those days are little known or appreciated now. An Act was passed by Parliament in 1678 forbidding any Catholic child to be sent abroad for education; and tradition, in connexion with this, tells us of one of the Catholic youths at Souldern, that one day while playing by the town well, near his father's house, an agent from one of the Colleges abroad suddenly kidnapped him and hurried him off, to return no more until his education should

¹ See Payne's *Non-Jurors*, p. 12.

be completed. The father was cognizant of the plot, but the poor mother was left in doubt to lament her child's possible fate¹.

The following entries are from the *Calendar for Advance of Money*, Part xi, p. 701 :—

1646. 'May 15. John Weedon sequestered Papist and Delinquent, Longdon Hall, co. Stafford, and Souldern, co. Oxford, and Bernard and Ignatius his sons.

Information that Wm. Rufford of Nether Sapy, co. Hereford, owes John Weedon £500. June 22. Order that he pay it on demand, or it will be levied by distress on his estate.

1650. Jan. 14. Information that John Weedon is a Papist, forwarded the Rebellion in Ireland and was active for the King in both wars, and that Willoughby Manly and two others owe him £1000 on security of land, as also Richard Parkes of Mountsorrel £250 and eight years interest.

Jan. 14. Information that these Weedons are all convicted Papists and owe the late King £426 6s. 8d.

1651. July 15. Information, &c. about Rufford's debt. . .

1652. Feb. 6. Order thereon that Weedon and Rufford appear to show cause why two-thirds of the debt should not be paid to the State on account of Weedon's recusancy.

1652. May 21. Information by Robt. Turner that John and Ignatius Weedon held houses and lands in Longdon and elsewhere, co. Stafford, and that Walter Collins of Chardley, co. Salop, had a lease of two-thirds thereof twelve years since from the Northern Commissioners for 41 years at £33 6s. 8d., but has paid no rent either to the receivers of the late King or since, and the said two-thirds with arrears are not under sequestration, but concealed.

1652. June 18. Turner begs an order for the levying of the said arrears, the sequestration of two-thirds of the estate, leave to be tenant thereof on fair rent and security, and consideration for his discovery.

June 18. Order that the lands be sequestered and the profits received for the State, unless the parties show good cause to the contrary.

1652. June. Collins petitions. The said lease was to secure money due to me by Weedon, who to defraud me, has compounded with the Commissioners of the South, having lands in other counties, for all his estate, including the lands in question . . . (Collins had been imprisoned for debt and begs to be set free by the Barons of the Exchequer).

1652. Sept. 22. Collins renews his petition that having always been faithful to the Parliament he may not have his estate sequestered by them, and his body imprisoned by the said Barons.

1652. Feb. Money owing by Parkes to Weedon. . .

Feb. 6. Order that Weedon and Parkes appear and show cause why two-thirds of the debt should not be paid to the State.

¹ Act dated Feb. 2, 1678, printed in *11th Report Historical MSS.*, App. ii, p. 72.

1652. *March 24.* Richard Parkes, of Mountsorrel, co. Leicester, pleads that he is maliciously molested by Weedon on account of his affection to the Parliament, for a debt from petitioner's father to him. Is clear of the debt, and having come on summons, begs despatch, being a poor tradesman and having a family to look after.

1653. *Dec. 2.* Affidavit signed by John Weedon, that Richard Parkes senior, and Richard his son and heir, borrowed £250 of him in 1636, to be repaid by £50 yearly for 7 years, but no more than £50 or £60 has been received thereof.

From the *Calendar for Compounding*, Part iv, p. 2943:—

‘John and Bernard Weedon, Souldern, co. Oxford, and Thomas and Ignatius Weedon, all Recusants.

1652. *Jan. 22.* On request of the County Committee for leave to discharge one-third of the estate of Bernard Weedon, sequestered for delinquency, the other two-thirds be sequestered for recusancy and for their own discharge from the rent thereof, they are to certify when the rent was due, and when the order of the Barons of the Exchequer of Nov. 15, 1650, for discharge of the estate, was brought to them.

Feb. 10. Order on hearing and debate, confirming the discharge of one-third of the estate, if there be no other proof of delinquency than that deemed insufficient by the Barons of Exchequer.

1653. *Sept. 2.* The County Committee report their survey of the estate of John and Bernard Weedon, which they have let at £330 10s. 0d.; two-thirds to be paid to the State and one-third to the Recusants.

1654. *Jan. 13.* (John and Bernard Weedon) beg to contract on the Recusants' Act of Oct., 1653, for two-thirds of their sequestered estate.

Jan. 13. Referred to Reading.

May 17. Bernard Weedon begs to be admitted tenant to two-thirds of his estate at Longdon, co. Stafford, it being much impoverished by the ill-usage of his tenants.

May 17. The registrar and auditor to certify and Reading to prepare a lease.

Claimant on the Estate.

Walter Collins of Chorley, co. Stafford, says the estate had been let to him in 1638. Petition rejected.

Also land in Bruntwood near Lichfield, belonging to Thomas Weedon, recusant.

Lessees of the Estate.

1653. *Oct. 25.* The contract made by the County Committee of Oxon., with Thomas Higgins, co. Oxon., for two-thirds of John and Bernard Weedon's estate for 7 years, from 29 Sept. 1653, confirmed by the Committee for Compounding.

1655. *May 17.* Higgins complains that John Hawtin detains the premises from him on pretence of some lease from John Weedon, etc.

June 26. Hawtin pleads that in 1649 he had a lease for 7 years from J. W. of a house and ground called Woolshed, which was part of Weedon's one-third at the yearly rent of £40; a rack-rent, this he paid to Weedon till by him directed to pay it to Higgins five years ago, which he has done ever since, etc.'

Calendar for Compounding, Part v, p. 3193: Recusants:—

1654. 'Jan. Ignatius Weedon, Longdon Hall, co. Stafford.

1654. June. Thomas Weedon recusant, co. Salop¹.'

A pedigree of Stotesbury of Sowthorne is printed in the fifth volume of the Harleian Society, p. 206.

John Weedon in his will, 1710, refers to his brothers Thomas and William, to his uncle Bernard, to his sister Mary, and to his brother-in-law, Charles Howse, of Kimble, Bucks.² John Weedon died 1712. There was a nun at Liège (New Hall), Elizabeth Howse from Bucks.; professed as Mother Francis Borgia, 1776, died 1782, aged 40.

INSCRIPTIONS ON TOMBSTONES IN SOULDERN CHURCH³.

Bernard Weedon, Esqre, died 22nd March, 1679, aged 72.

Mary, wife of Bernard Weedon, senr, Esqre, died 17 Oct. 1691.

Elizabeth, wife of Bernard Weedon, junr, Gent: died 22d July, 1708.

John Weedon, Esqre, died 13 April, 1702, aged 67.

R. I. P.

Frances, wife of John Weedon, Esqre, died May 13, 1701, aged 60.

R. I. P. Amen.

John Weedon, Esqre, died 3d Nov. 1710⁴, aged 42.

R. I. P.

In the *Calendar of Clarendon State Papers*, vol. i, p. 61, we find a petition from Messrs. Weedon for protection against informers, 1634-5, signed or endorsed by Windebank. And later, in a list of papists returned July, 1706 (kept at Woodstock):—

'Souldern; Robert Kilby, Alse, Mary, Jane Kilby, spinsters; Anne, wife of John Weden; Ann, wife of John Coster; Ann, wife of Henry Bennett (same as at Hethe); Katherine, wife of John Neal, mason, and Eliz. his dau.; James and Bridget Horn; Richard Bennett and wife; Sam. Fletcher; William Reynolds⁵; Mary Painter.'

¹ P. 3215, apparently same as Thomas of Bruntwood.

² See Payne's *Non-Jurors*, p. 12. Also Payne's *Records*, pp. 5, 6, 76.

³ Copied from *Rawlinson MSS.*, B 400 f.

⁴ Law papers say 1712.

⁵ Probably the Archdeacon.

KILBY.

At the same date with the Weedons another family, of the name of Kilby, lived at Souldern. Richard Kilby was at Souldern or thereabouts in 1638; he signed a lease for a house in Souldern, between John Hodges, of Wall House, London, and some one in Souldern¹. The earliest printed notice we have found of them occurs in Wood's *Life and Times*, vol. ii, p. 53, when writing in 1664 he alludes to various prodigies which had happened in Oxfordshire, and instances 'the devill let loose to possess people, as at Souldern in Mr. Kilbie's maid.'

Two successive Kilbys married into the Reynolds family, of Cassington, and members of both families lie together in the church. In 1704 the heiress of the Kilbys married Samuel, son of Gabriel Cox, of Farningham, Kent, and thus introduces a new name into the parish.

In 1712 John Weedon died, making his will in favour of the young son of S. Cox and Alice Kilby. Under what circumstances this took place we know not, but in 1716 Cosin's *List of Non-Jurors* takes no notice of the Weedon estate, so we may fairly assume it to have been under litigation at the time. Robert Kilby's estate is returned as a 'Fee simple, a tenement called "Hyatt House" in his own "possession," and John Day one of his tenants, £107 18s. 0d.' He is also returned for property in Bedfordshire.

Several poor Catholic families lived in the village, all of the same names as those enumerated at Somerton, such as Lepington, Ansty, Horn, Smith; in the Register they are uniformly marked as 'Papistae.'

Mr. Cox died suddenly at Farningham in 1712, and afterwards his widow and children appear to have lived with her brother Kilby at Souldern, where she was buried in 1729². In 1746 Mr. Kilby left by will all his landed estates to his nephew Samuel Cox, who thus became owner of both the Kilby and Weedon estates.

The chapel was a long attic, as was usual in these cases, extending over one wing of the house, and a small room at one end was used as a vestry, upon the stone window-sill of which is still to be seen the

¹ From the Cox family papers.

² Rawlinson visited Souldern in 1718 and reports that Mrs. Cox lived at the

Manor House. Whether this was Weedon's Manor or the house now styled so, seems doubtful.

date 1665¹, carved in the stone with a cross. The hiding-place for the priest and chapel furniture, in case of alarm, was under the floor, close to the door, and so contrived as to be covered by the door when it was opened. The bolt was inside, and a way of escape appeared probable through a series of large cupboards, one beneath the other, to the bottom of the house.

The Coxes retired to their London house in 1781 (where a few years later they became victims to the Gordon rioters), taking with them the altar furniture and vestments, and closing the chapel. After seventy years the wheel revolved and a chapel was again opened in the old house.

During these long years the few remaining faithful heard Mass at Hardwick and Hethe, a distance of five miles. One old man was still alive in 1852 who remembered having been taken as a child to the old chapel in the house; he was Matthew Smith. In this same year, 1852, on the 15th of August, Mass was once more said in Souldern House. Another upper room had been furnished, as the old one had fallen to ruin; the old chalice was once more used, and the fragments of the old vestments were turned to account in the chapel. Here service continued for upwards of fifteen years, as recorded in the account of Hethe. Dr. Dolman died on the 15th of March, 1867, and for a year the priest was provided for in a farmhouse. In July, 1868, Dr. Dolman's son-in-law, Bryan John Stapleton, took Souldern House, and he and Mr. Cox made arrangements with the Bishop to support a priest in the village. The payment of £50 hitherto made to Hethe was withdrawn; £25 at first until the death of Mr. Robson, the remainder upon the occurrence of his death in 1870. A house in the village was procured, and the Rev. Hugh McCarten appointed priest the same year. He was succeeded by the Rev. John Morris, who died at Wappenbury and was removed to his old home for burial. After him came the Rev. Sam. Glossop in January, 1873, who still remains at Souldern, respected by all his neighbours, having won the goodwill and respect of the parish so far as to be consulted upon all parish matters outside those of his own flock.

The present chapel was built by Mrs. Dolman as a memorial to her

¹ This date of 1665 appears to be conclusive evidence that the present manor house was Kilby's and called 'Hyatts,' because Wood says Kilby

was there in 1664, and we know that Dodwell, of whom he bought the house, was no Catholic. Can the house have belonged to the Hyatts of Fritwell?

late husband, and was opened on the 2nd of February, 1870, by the Rev. Canon Sullivan, Vicar-General, assisted by several priests, and Dr. Sweeney preached. The choir of Banbury gave their services for the occasion. The first child baptized here was Christopher Stapleton; weddings and burials still went to Hethe¹.

A small well-appointed school was established in the village under a certificated mistress, the house and playground being adapted to the purpose by Colonel Cox from a roomy old cottage and garden adjoining the chapel.

In the north-west corner of the church, now covered by pews, are two memorial slabs:—

‘Here lyeth the body of Allice, the wife of Richard Kilbye, gent: who departed this life Decr. 1st, 1714, and in the year of her age 66.

Also here lyeth the body of Anne, the wife of Robert Kilbye, gent: who died Sept. 8th, 1754, aged 84 years.

And also,

Here lyeth the body of Robert Kilbye, gent: who died March 12th, 1757, aged . . . years.’

The last-named was not of age in 1693. The two ladies above were aunt and niece, and both of them were Reynolds of Cassington.

The next was mother to Anne Kilbye, and she was born Anne Whitgreave:—

‘Here lyeth the body of Alice Reynolds, Widdow, who departed this life Aug. 8th. 1694. Also here lyeth the Body of William Reynolds, gent: son of Alice Reynolds, who departed this life Feby. ye 23d. 1717–18 aetatis suae 71.’

Wood calls him a ‘monk of Lisbon².’ He was Archdeacon of the Vicariate of Oxon., Bucks., and Berks., and educated at Lisbon.

‘Here lyeth the body of Richard Kilby, Esqre, who departed this life the 11th day of Sept. 1693, aetatis suae 84. R. I. P. Amen. And also lyeth the body of Alice Cox, daughter of Richard Kilby, who departed this life on the 7th April 1729, aetatis suae 53. Here lyeth the body of Helen Bleven, who departed this life the 3d Oct. 1765, aged 65.’

¹ The altar-rails and the chalice are those belonging to the original old chapel in the house. The altar furni-

ture was all presented by members of the family.

² *Life and Times*, vol. i, p. 305.

The following is from *Rawlinson MSS.*, B 400 (in Bodley):—

‘Here lyeth the body of Jane, daughter of Alice Kilby, who died Dec. 17th, 1714, in the year of her age 29.’

The death of Jane Kilby and her mother are entered in the old Britwell Catholic Register kept at Oxford.

GODINGTON

This little parish lies upon the banks of the Buckinghamshire Ouse, forming the outlying corner of the county of Oxford, and from its secluded situation was most favourable for the resort of Catholic priests during the hottest time of persecution. Consequently it was well known also to the lynx-eyed pursuivants. The manor appears to have been divided into four farms in the sixteenth century, pretty much as now, and belonged to the Fermors of Somerton. In the will of William Fermor, 1552, money is left for the repair of Godington Church, and ‘land in . . . Pudlehill, etc.,’ the church probably not then being desecrated; and thirty years later, in 1580, his son Thomas Fermor bequeathed a messuage in Godington ‘to my servant William Messer’ and another to John Yates. One Hawis of Godington was employed to paint Mr. Fermor’s tomb in Somerton Church¹.

Soon after this, in 1583, we find in the *State Papers* an account of Oxfordshire families who entertained priests; four names from Godington are given, all marked ‘Schismaticks,’ viz. Paxton, Brown, Cupper, and Jackson; these names represent the four farms of the parish. Which of these people inhabited the ‘Moat Farm’ we cannot tell; fifty years later we find it belonged to Ralph Collyer, whose daughter and heiress married into the Busby family.

Godington, with Somerton, was the dower of Cecily Lady Arundell as the widow of Sir John Fermor².

The ‘Moat Farm’ lies close to the church upon the north-east side; the moat is still there, but the house seems to have been rebuilt by Mr. William Fermor in 1782. This date and W.F. are cut upon a stone over the front door. There must have been a gate-house outside the moat, which seems to be apparent in a mound in the

¹ e Blomfield.

² See Somerton, p. 68.

grass. In this house, down to the present century, Mass was constantly said by the priest from Hethe, and it is only within a year or two since the last vestige of the fittings in the chapel in the roof have been removed. The farm, and also 'Poodle Farm' in the same parish, was inhabited by the Collingridges. We have the dates of the deaths of members of each family in the *Catholic Directory*.

The Paxtons lived in a house, now pulled down, which stood on the south-east of the church. Sir Joseph Paxton, so well known as the designer of the Crystal Palace, belonged to this family. So late as the last century the Godington people were Catholic almost to a man, and the very occasional Protestant visitor was attended to by the curate from a neighbouring village. The property was sold with the remaining Fermor property to Lord Effingham, and with the old family the old Faith departed.

'A son of John Paxton was borne Feby. 16th, 1705, but not baptised according to the Church of England¹.'

BUSBY FAMILY.

It has been already mentioned that a certain Ralph Collyer left an heiress who married John Busby.

Godington, as the crow flies, is about six miles from Addington, co. Bucks., where we find the Busbys had established themselves². The manor of Addington was purchased by John Busby, who died in 1635, from Sir John Curson, of Waterperry. This John Busby appears to have been a lawyer, and it was his second son, John, who married Joane Collyer. Of one of the family we read an amusing episode in the Verney Papers³. Lady Verney was at Claydon in 1647, and writes to her husband, an exile in France:—

'I was yesterday at Mr. Busby's a horseback and was very very with thatt little journey. He is very kind to us about that bussiness⁴; he hath a very fine place and showed me every hole in the house. I am sure I was heartily weary with walking up and downe; he hath bestowed a very great deal of money upon it. I spoke very heartily to him to meet you and told him how extreamly joyed you would be to see him . . . but I do not think he has any great Maw to ye journey; he is ritch and fatt and I doubt will

¹ From the Parish Register.

vol. ii, p. 290.

² Lipscombe's *Hist. of Bucks.*, vol. ii, p. 507.

⁴ Sir Ralph's sequestration. Busby was one of the witnesses to Sir Ralph's will in 1659.

³ *Memoirs of the Verney Family*,

be afrayde of hazarding his person . . . if the times do not suddenly mend he will give over his profession and leave the kingdom, butt yet he says att ye present he hath very much practice.'

He was probably at heart a Catholic and some of his relations, the Godington family, were already exiled. Lipscombe (u.s.) quotes from the Journal of the House of Commons¹ an account of a transaction about the affairs of John Busby of Godington, which shows that he was in business as a grazier and cattle-dealer, and that he was abroad at the time, which is also corroborated by the relation of one of his sons, Father George Busby, S.J. (alias Brown):—

'24th Oct. 1642, five oxen of Mr. John Busby, a Recusant, stayed in Smithfield, were ordered by Parliament to be delivered to the Victuallers of the Navy to be accountable for to the House; and that the Money for these five oxen sold to butchers, be delivered to Capt. Bruce to fortify the neck of land over against "Durham House," and that the Butcher be saved harmless.'

The estate of his widow was dealt with in June, 1655:—

'Claimant on the estate of Joane widow of John Busby, late Recusant, co. Oxon. John Bagshaw begs allowance of his purchase last May for £400 of a 31 years' lease of lands in Bicester, co. Oxon., and a house in St. Nicholas Shambles, London, bought from Joane Busby, but the Co. Committees of Oxford and Middlesex disturb him as to two-thirds because of the Recusancy of John, husband of Joane Busby, long since dead².

The arms of Busby of Addington and those of Busby in Chipping Norton Church are the same.

Five members of this family entered the Society of Jesus, the principal of whom was Father George Busby, who was put upon trial for his life during the commotion of Oates's Plot. From his depositions, printed in Foley's *Records*³, he states that his parents had crossed over to Belgium, after enduring the usual persecutions and the searching of their house, with its attendant plunder, before his birth. The elder son, Charles, entered the Society of Jesus in 1654, being aged about eighteen; George was born at Brussels about the year 1639. He was for many years chaplain in the house of his niece, Mrs. Powtrel, at West Hallam, Derbyshire. At the trial for supposed conspiracy against the King (Oates's Plot) he was condemned to death, but received the King's pardon, when he returned to Flanders, and remained there until his death in 1695.

¹ Lipscombe, pp. 820 and 826.

p. 3239.

² *Calendar for Compounding*, Part v,

³ Vol. v, series xii, pp. 499 et seq.

A slab in front of the altar-steps in Godington Church bears the letters I.B., M.B., and S.C., possibly for Busby and Colyer, and probably marks their vault. On a small white gravestone is the inscription :—

‘To the memory of Mrs. Frances Busby, fifth daughter of Charles Busby of Goddington, Gent., and Mary his wife, who dyed in the 6th year of her age, the 16th day of May, 1679¹.’

The family appear to have returned to Godington after the Restoration. The following entries are from the Parish Register, and are the whole of those which we have any reason to connect with Catholicity :—

‘Nathaniel Pigot, the son of Mr. Nat. Pigot, was buried March 12, 1693-4.

Frances, the daughter of Mr. Charles Busby, was buried May 19, 1679.

Mary, the daughter of Mr. Charles Busby, was buried July 30, 1681.

Maria Pigot, the daughter of Mr. Nat. Pigot, was buried Sept. 8, 1696.

Mary, the daughter of Mr. John Busby, was borne May 12, 1704, but not baptised according to the Church of England.

Abigail, the daughter of Mr. John Busby, borne June 8th, and baptised June 9th, 1715.’

The Busby family introduce us to many cousins among the Catholics of this part of England.

Father George Busby, S.J., tells us his niece was Mrs. Powtrel, of West Hallam, Derbyshire, and Payne’s *Records* (pp. 17 and 71), in the wills of Nathaniel Pigott and Francis Canning, mention Elliots, Pigotts, Cannings, and Greenwoods, as near connexions.

LIST OF PAPISTS, JULY, 1706².

‘Godington, Thomas Tomkins, a farmer, and Rebecca his dau., and Anne his daughter; Will Tomkins, tailor; Margaret Hawkins and George her son; Will Paxon, shepherd, wife and children Will and Ralph; John Paxon and wife and three children; Eleonor Friday; Johanna Busby; Thomas Paxon, farmer.’

The parish books tell us nothing of these people, beginning about fifty years later.

¹ See Blomfield.

² Kept at Woodstock.

PIGOTT FAMILY

The family of Pigott mentioned in the Parish Register is of some, and we may say considerable, Catholic interest. It was connected by marriage with a great number of Catholic families in this part of England, and the marriage of Nathaniel Pigott with Rebecca Busby of Godington gives us the key.

The above Nathaniel was the well-known Catholic barrister, and the last who practised at the Bar before the Act of William III excluded papists. We learn from Foley¹ that the Pigotts had their family seat at Harting, Sussex, near West Grinstead. A Jesuit, Father Adam Pigott, was related to them, and is probably the brother mentioned in Nathaniel's will, and whose own will (made in 1736) is preserved at Stonyhurst. Nathaniel Pigott appears in most of the Catholic business of the day; he had chambers in Boswell Court, Westminster, and his name, with many others, is recorded in 1708 as one who had taken the oath of allegiance and refused all others². He died in 1737, aged 76.

'Mr. Nathaniel Pigott was called to the Bar in 1688. The Statute of 7th and 8th William and Mary interdicted the Bar to Catholics, so that after Mr. Pigott no Catholic was called till 1791, when it was again opened to them. He practised for several years as Chamber Counsel³.'

Father Adam Pigott, S.J., was 'born in 1673. Entered Soc. of J. at Watten, Dec. 31, 1694; professed in 1712, being at that time Chaplain at Calehill, Kent; died at Crendon Park, Ap. 30, 1751, aged 78⁴.' In 1740 Rebecca and Catherine Pigott entered the Noviciate and were professed, the elder in 1742, the younger in 1745.

Rebecca, Dame Ursula, became twelfth Abbess in 1773. When her community left for England, being old she refused to accompany them, and remained with one attendant in the old convent until her death, June 22, 1796. She was buried in the Monastery de Forêt. Her life-size portrait in oils was left to the community by her great-niece Mrs. Barnes, née Fairfax, of Gilling Castle, in 1885.

¹ Vol. iii, p. 541.

² See *List of Papist Householders in Parish of Westminster* (Record Office).

³ Butler's *Memoirs*, vol. ii, p. 337.

⁴ Foley, vol. iii, note to Carryl family. A widow of this family,

Mrs. Pigott, was a Benedictine nun, probably at Dunkirk, died 1721. See *Annals of the Benedictines of Brussels, now Bergholt*, published by themselves, 1898.

ADAM PIGOTT'S WILL ¹.

In the Name of God, Amen. I Adam Pigott of Lincolns Inn Fields in the Parish of Saint Gyles in the Fields in the County of Middlesex Gentleman being in good health and of sound mind memory and understanding thanks be to God for the same but considering ye uncertainty of life and the certainty of my death do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following. I recommend my soul into the hands of Almighty God firmly hoping through the meritts of my Saviour Jesus Christ to have full remission of all my sins. And my body I committ to the earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my Executor hereafter named. And as to my temporal estate which God has been pleased to bestow upon me I dispose thereof as foloweth. Imprimis my Will and desire is that all my just debts and funeral expences be first pay'd and satisfyed Then I do give unto my loveing friend George Williamson of Drury Lane in the Parish of St Gyles in the Fields Gentleman the sum of twenty pounds to buy him mourning and for his trouble and care and do hereby constitute and appoint the said George Williamson Executor of this my last Will and Testament and as for the rest of my Goods Chattels ready money or securities for money and all other my reall and personall Estates wheresoever the same shall be whereof I shall be seized or possessed of or any ways intituled unto at the time of my decease or any other person or persons in Trust for me I give devise and bequeath the same unto my loveing friend Sebastian Needham of Great Queen Street in the Parish of St Gyles in the Fields in the County of Middlesex Gentleman and his Heirs Executors Administrators and Assignes for ever and do hereby constitute and appoint the said Sebastian Needham sole Residuary Legatee of this my last Will or Wills by me at any time heretofore made. In Witness whereof I the said Adam Pigott have to this my last Will and Testament sett my hand and seal this eleventh day of June Anno Domini 1736.

Signed sealed published and declared by the said Adam Pigott the Testator as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who as Witnesses of the same have in his presence subscribed our names thereto

ADAM PIGOTT

Ricd Richardson
Jno Kilby
Nicolas Fourniers

One of the farms at Godington was let to the Taylor family. A family of this name held a farm at Warkworth:—'Mrs. Eleanor

¹ Kept at Stonyhurst.

Taylor at Godington, in her 58th year, Sep. 9, 1831¹. Mr. Taylor left money to Hethe (q. v.).

The Godington 'Enclosure Award' was drawn up in 1807 by John Davies, surveyor. The sole owners were Mr. Fermor, the rector, and Magdalen College, which owned two acres.

AMBROSEDEN (VULGO AMERSDEN)

This parish, half-way between Bicester and Merton, is only interesting to us from one point of view, by its connexion for about seventy years with a Recusant family. From the unpublished *History of Ambroseden*, by the Rev. C. Blomfield, we learn the following:—

'The purchaser of the Ambroseden Manor, from Edward Denton, Esq., in 1604, was Margaret Whethill. She left it by will to Sir Thomas Mildmay, of Chelmsford, Essex, with whom and with his descendants it remained some years. The only member of this family who has left any note of his residence at Ambroseden is Mr. Walter Mildmay. The following presentment to the Bishop of Oxford's Court tells much of his history.'

1663. 'Oct. 29. Office of the Lord against Walter Mildmay of Ambroseden, Gent.

Mr. William Ayliffe Vicar of Ambroseden appeared and alledged that he had power and order given him by the aforesaid Mr. Walter Mildmay to appear in him and his behalfe to make answer to a presentment given into this Court against him by the Churchwardens of Ambroseden. He acknowledged that the said Mr. Mildmay is a Recusant and not as yett well satisfied in his judgement touching the Religion and discipline of the Church of England. Whereupon the Judge at the petition of the said Mr. Ayliffe decreed that the said Mr. Mildmay should have time to advise in this matter for his better information in his judgement and opinion touching the premisses until the first Court day of Easter Term next and admonished them to certify, etc.'

Mr. Mildmay, or his next heir², was obliged to raise money on this estate, mortgaging it first to James Draux, Esq., and again in 1670 to Sir William Glynne. The latter, three years afterwards, purchased it.

Mr. Dunkin, quoting from a manuscript in the possession of the Turner family, says:—

'From this gentleman (Walter Mildmay) the Manor of Ambroseden passed to Francis Mildmay, and during the Protectorate of Oliver Cromwell was declared forfeited. It was accordingly vested in Trustees by an Act

¹ *Catholic Directory*, obituary.

² The old Manor House of Ambroseden, where the Mildmays dwelt, stood

upon the site of the house now known as Park Farm.

of Parliament, 1653; having however been deeply mortgaged to James the son of Sir James Draux, for some time previous, means were desired to prevent the sale, a fine of £1200 was levied and paid and the estate conveyed to Draux for the tenor of Mildmay's life¹.

We again hear of the name in the *Calendar for Compounding*².

1648? 'Francis Mildmay, Papist and Delinquent, Amersden, co. Oxford. Begg to compound on the ordinary rules for his estate never sequestered till August last, he having been in arms against Parliament. No reference.

Claimants on the Estate.

1648? Edward Stuckly pleads that he has a debt of £200 due on bond by Francis Mildmay, who is incapable of composition and whose land worth £250 a year is valued at £50. This debt is the only maintenance of himself, wife, children and grand-children, who are ruined by Mildmay's perfidy, etc. . . .

County Committee view the estate; it is worth £255 a year. *Jan.* 1652.

1653. *Aug.* 16. Discharge from Sequestration of Amersden Manor, co. Oxon., forfeited by Mildmay and bought from the Treason Trustees by John Warre of London.'

Mildmay appears to have retained the advowson of the living after the sale, for White Kennett, in his *Parochial Antiquities*³, mentions that a turn of Presentation was purchased from Walter Mildmay, Esq., in 1671.

The last we hear of the family is the Profession at Lamspring, on September 14, 1674, of Dom Francis Mildmay, of Amersden, Oxfordshire, who for some time laboured on the Mission at Leighland, Somerset, and returning to Lamspring died there on December 6, 1720⁴; and also of two ladies of the family, Dominican nuns: 'Catherine Mildmay of Ambroseden, Oxon., professed at Vilvorde 1644, died 1714; Margaret Constantia Mildmay of the same, professed at Brussels 1658, died 1675⁵.'

Basil Brooke of North Aston makes mention in his will of aunt and cousin Mildmay.

NOKE

Five miles north of Oxford, upon the borders of Otmoor, is the small picturesque village of Noke. Here we find traces of a Catholic Station as far down the centuries as 1706. The property passed

¹ Dunkin's *Bullingdon and Ploughley*, vol. i, p. 40.

² Part iii, p. 1883.

³ Vol. ii, p. 403.

⁴ See Weldon's *Notes*; and *Benedictine Necrology*.

⁵ *Carisbrooke Reg. of Dom. Nuns*.

through the hands of the Fermors, the Winchcombes, and the Halls, until at length it was purchased by Sarah Duchess of Marlborough, who demolished the splendid old mansion-house, where the Earls of Warwick had dispensed hospitality in the days of chivalry.

1706. 'Noke, Richard Vesey, Rector. Popish Recusants there. John Palmer, Gent; his mother and wife; Mary Hierons, his maid, . . . Heycock, yeoman, and his wife. The wife of Edward Franklin, yeoman¹.'

This same family is returned for Islip in July, 1706. It is probable that Mr. John Palmer was a tenant at the mansion under the Halls. The Parish Books of Noke preserve his name in their records. In the year 1698 his name occurs as Overseer for the Poor, and in the following year the burials of the father and brother of the above :—

'June 18, 1669. Thomas ye sonne of Mr. John Palmer was buried.'

'Mr. John Palmer Gentleman of Islip Parish was buried ye 27th of December, 1698².'

Of Heycock there are several entries of births and deaths from the year 1713 down to 1776. One of them is designated as 'Weaver.'

Hierons appears to have been a common name among the labourers.

'Edward Franklin was buried, April 18, 1730.' He left his name attached to a Close in the parish.

In the will of the first Mr. William Fermor, of Somerton, dated 1552, is mentioned his 'Godson, Mr. Edward Palmer,' and in the will of his nephew and heir, Mr. Thomas Fermor, is mentioned 'my cousin Bennett Winchcombe,' who was appointed one of the executors. Noke is alluded to in Mr. Winchcombe's account of expenses for the Fermor family. '1590. Item. delivered my Mr at Noke, at the wedding, vs.' At this time Mrs. Joane Bradshaw, grandmother-in-law to Mr. Richard Fermor, was living at the mansion-house, and the wedding in question was between Mistress Mary Fermor and Francis Plowden of Shiplake (q. v.).

Shortly after these transactions Bennett Winchcombe purchased Noke from the Fermors. He was the descendant of the wealthy clothier of Newbury known as 'Jack of Newbury,' who was first settled at Winchcombe in Gloucestershire, whence his name. Bennett Winchcombe served as High Sheriff for Oxfordshire in 1610, notwithstanding which he appears to have had strong Catholic proclivities³.

¹ *The Stonyhurst MSS.*

² From the Parish Books, by favour of the Rector, the Rev. Henry Thorp.

³ Davenport's *Lord-Lieutenants of Oxfordshire*.

At his death in 1623 the estate of Noke passed to his sister, the wife of Benedict Hall (see Berwick Salome). When Noke was absorbed in the Marlborough property all Catholic interest seems to have ceased.

In the *7th Report Hist. MSS.* (p. 117 a, A.D. 1660) we find a Petition of Benedict Hall and the Marquis of Worcester about felling timber on their estates in Monmouth¹.

1647. 'Oct. 6. Order of the Houses of Lords and Commons . . . that Benedict Hall of High Meadow, Esqre, have a month's time to examine his witnesses upon the information laid against him and to cross-examine the witnesses for the State².'

In the *11th Report* of the same (App. ii, p. 261) is mentioned the Petition of Francis Hall to the King and to the House of Lords.

'Petitioner came to town by license of four Justices of the Peace in Monmouthshire, about some land he sold in Oxfordshire and was seized on wrongly as William Hall, by a messenger. Dec. 17th, 1680.'

Noke appears to have been sold by Francis Hall about the year 1680.

Mr. Francis Hall seems to have had only one son; he was in holy orders, and the name of Hall was assumed and continued by his niece's son, Viscount Gage.

¹ Benedict Hall married a Somerset.

² *13th Report Hist. MSS.*, App. iv, p. 397.

✠
PART III. SECTION I

STEEPLE BARTON, LEDWELL

*FAMILIES OF SHELDON, CORNEY,
AND CARRINGTON-SMITH*



STEEPLE BARTON

MANOR OF SESSWELLS BARTON, OR BARTON ODONIS.

WITHIN the manor of Steeple Barton lie three subsidiary manors, one of which, Sesswells Barton, takes its name from a former owner, William de Shareswell, and further back in history bore the title of Odonis, as once forming a portion of the feof of Odo, Bishop of Bayeux.

Towards the end of the sixteenth century Ralph Sheldon, of Beoley, Worcestershire, purchased this manor from the Dormer family for his second son. It seems doubtful whether the house was built by the Dormers or by another. Wood says¹, 'the house was said to have been built by one Sheers, a Merchant of the Staple,' but the epitaph in the church tells us it was erected by John Dormer, and the date and motto placed over the door was 'Think and Thank 1570.'

The Sheldons held large estates both in Worcestershire and Warwickshire, their principal seats being at Beoley and Weston, and it was to Weston that Antony à Wood was wont to go upon long visits whilst arranging the library of Mr. Sheldon, the antiquary. The younger branch of the family continued to dwell at Steeple Barton for five or six generations, and drew around them the Catholics of the neighbourhood.

The young Squire of Barton made the 'grand tour' together with his wife Bridget, sister to Colonel Morgan, killed at Newbury, and

¹ MS. B 6.

his father and mother. Licence was obtained for the journey in June, 1625.

‘Mr. Edward Sheldon’s humble suit to Lord Treasurer Ley for licence for himself and his wife Elizabeth, together with Ralph Sheldon and Bridget his wife and their 18 servants and 6 horses, to travel on the Continent for two or three years¹.’

It would appear that Mr. Sheldon left his house at Barton during the time of the war, as we find him living in Holywell, Oxford, leading a quiet dilettante sort of life. Wood knew him well, and speaks of him in a very friendly spirit. He says in 1656, ‘Mr. Ralph Sheldon, a Roman Catholic gentleman of Steeple Barton, was at that time living in Holywell, and was much admired for his smooth and admirable way of playing upon the viol².’ He died in London in 1658-9, and was buried in the church of St. Martin’s. His widow long survived him, and lies in the church at Steeple Barton. In the meanwhile it would appear that Edward, the son, remained at Barton; he married the daughter of Sir Philip Constable, of Everingham, Yorkshire, a faithful adherent to the King, whom he steadfastly served to the total loss of all his worldly goods, and who came to close his days in the house of his son-in-law. He is buried in the church at Barton, with the following epitaph over his remains:—

‘Here lyeth the body of Sir Philip Constable of Everingham, co. York, Bart., whose whole estate was confiscated by the Usurpers for his loyalty to King Charles 1st. He died Feb. 25th, 1664³.’

His daughter, Mrs. Sheldon, was buried with him, but her husband Edward was laid beside his father in London. The eldest son, another Ralph, succeeded to the estates in Worcestershire, and became the head of the family, thus terminating their connexion with our county. He followed James II in his flight.

1688. ‘Dec. 26. The King went from Rochester on Saturday night, attended by the Duke of Berwick, Ralph Sheldon, and Mr. Biddulph.’

‘Dec. 28. Our poor master is once again gone from Rochester; he went in a boat with Labady, Ralph Sheldon, and Dick Beadle, and hath so entirely given up all that there will be no ceremony I doubt used towards him or the child⁴.’

¹ See *State Papers Domestic*, 1625 to 1649, p. 23.

² Wood, *Life and Times*, vol. i, p. 204.

³ For the entire epitaph see *Burke’s Extinct Baronetage*.

⁴ 11th Report Hist. MSS.

Ralph Sheldon followed the King to France and was useful to him as a go-between between him and England, as the following letter from King James II, St. Germain's, to Lord Dartmouth, will show:—

'Jan. 19, 1689. Howsoever the Prince of Orange uses me in other things, sure he will not refuse me the common civility of letting all my coaches and horses come over to me, 'tis but what I did to Prince George when he went from me. I send this bearer Ralf Sheldon to you to bring them away, so soon as a passe can be got for them from the P. of Orange. Speake for the pass yourself to Ld. Middleton to have it solicited, and give directions to Delatre to bring over him self, or if he bee not ready to come, to send the best of my guns and pistols over with Sheldon, this bearer, to whom I refer for what else I have to say.

JAMES R.¹

The following entries show that the necessary passes were granted:—

'Feb. 23, 1689. Pass for Ralph Sheldon, Esqre, and two servants to go to France. March 4. Pass for the same to go to France².'

A few months later we find a warrant was issued to apprehend Mrs. Catherine Sheldon, suspected of high treason³.

The name of Sheldon does not appear in the list of Catholics in 1706⁴, but in 1716 Mr. Sheldon of Beoley is returned as owning entailed estates at Sibford and Steeple Barton, Oxfordshire, soon after which the family sold the property. The house is now known as Barton Abbey.

A curious little account of the domestic chapel in the house is given us by Mr. W. Wing in his *Annals of Steeple Barton*, 1866:—

'The Sheldons had a long attic in the house adorned with frescoes and fitted with an altar, altar rails, &c. When I saw this chamber thirty years ago enough remained to give a vivid idea of its former splendour. It was approached by an easily winding staircase composed of solid blocks of polished oak.'

We have no record when it was last used as a chapel.

Additional references to the family are found in the following documents:—

'Ralph Sheldon, Barton, co. Oxford, and the lessees of and claimants on his estate. Gilbert Sheldon, D.D.⁵

Feb. 12, 1651. Wm. Soundy of Caversham, Ox., begs confirmation of a lease by Edward Sheldon and Ralph his son of lands in Caversham.

¹ 11th Report Historical MSS., App. v, p. 252.

² State Papers Domestic, 1689-90, pp. 7, 13.

³ u. s., p. 245, Sept. 6, 1689.

⁴ But four families (rather poor than otherwise) are returned.

⁵ If this be the Archbishop of Canterbury, the relationship seems to have been overlooked.

The Co. Com. have not only sequestered the rent for Ralph Sheldon's recusancy, but taking no notice of the said lessee, have demised the whole estate to a stranger, and endeavour to disposses the petitioner.

Feb. 12. The Co. Com. to certify.

March 16, 1652. The five sons and two daughters of Ralph Sheldon, by allowance of their title to Cauldron Grange and other lands, co. Stafford, sold by their father, "who was much indebted and improvident," to his younger brother Gilbert Sheldon, D.D. ; he declared they should be for the benefit of petitioners and in 1638 settled them in trust, charging them with portions of £600 for his daughters, but with power of revocation ; and later he settled them on himself and his heirs, in trust for maintenance, binding apprentice, or other preferment of the children, and the profits have been employed accordingly. Though information was given that the estate was Dr. Sheldon's, and he a delinquent, yet on examination the County Commissioners took no proceedings ; but on some new misinformation, they have lately questioned the same.

March 16. Co. Com. to certify what they know, and the witnesses being in town, to be examined here.

March 16. Like petition, stating the lands as conveyed to Dr. Gilbert Sheldon by Hugh Sheldon, his elder brother, and by Dr. Gilbert settled in trust on petitioners.

Jan. 13, 1654. Ralph Sheldon begs to contract on the late Recusants' Act for two-thirds of his sequestered estate.

Jan. 13. Referred to Reading¹.

Committee sitting at Deddington to the same at Oxford :—

'Feb. 8, 1650-1. Ralph Sheldon's estate, which you value at £500 a year, was set before the war for £454, out of which £14 is paid in quit rents and £20 in tithes. The former tenant refused it at the rent contracted for, and it is now much out of heart for want of being stocked².'

'July, 1646. Huntingdon Hastings Corney. Steeple-Barton, Co. Oxon. Some of the inhabitants of Co. Oxon. petition Will. Visc. Saye and Sele and others of the County Committee in Corney's behalf ; he was a wall of preservation to them when their lives were in great danger, and he was ready in the darkest times to promote their advantage. He constantly kept his house till towards the end of the troubles. Being invited by persons of known integrity, he often repaired to Woodstock and Oxford to act there for petitioners' advantage. Beg that he may have the benefit of the clause in the Act of Parliament, to clear himself before the County Commission upon his oath concerning his religion, he being informed against as a Papist in arms.

The County Com. subscribe this petition, certifying that they are fully satisfied of its truth, that it is subscribed by persons of quality, who are cordially well affected, and that Mr. Corney "has often much hazarded

¹ *Calendar for Compounding*, Part iv, p. 2717.

² *Ib.*, Part i, p. 407.

himself to do service for those whose lives and fortunes have not been too dear to venture for the preservation of this present Parliament."

Aug. 5, 1646. Corney petitions to compound on Oxford Articles for delinquency in assisting the King.

Aug. 20. Fine £130. On his affirming that he was not sequestered till the beginning of June last, and that he was at the charge of sowing and ploughing, and has made compositions for the corn on the ground, he is to have restitution of any part thereof sold by the Co. Committee.

Nov. 21. Note that the fine is made void and the money repaid, he being a Papist in arms.

Nov. 30, 1648. The sub-committee to examine how he has acquitted himself for recusancy.

Dec. 14. Fine confirmed at £130¹.

Feb. 3, 1647. H. H. Corney of Steeple Barton, Papist, Delinquent. Deposition that Sir Edw. Wortley of Bartholomew's and Sir John Williams both owe him money.

Both were ordered to pay him £300 apiece².

No amount of research has hitherto thrown any light upon this name beyond the statement in the pedigree that he came from Pickering in Yorkshire.

AN ABBESS FROM BARTON.

'Elizabeth Mary (Bernard) Green, daughter of Jonas Green and of Mary King, of Herefordshire. (Green was of Barton in Oxon.) She was professed in 1757. Chosen Abbess 21 May, 1767, and continued by re-election 30 May, 1770. Restated 1779 and 1782 and in 1785. She was the last Abbess of the Community and died as such in Norwich on 8th April, 1810 (being Sunday), in the 76th year of her age and the 54th of her religious profession. She had been brought up in the Convent School from the age of 14. Buried in the churchyard of St. George's Colegate, Norwich³.'

LEDWELL, in the parish of SANDFORD ST. MARTIN

Ledwell Park was formerly one of the residences of the family of Smith, Lord Carrington. It continued in this family during the reign of Charles II, as we find their name and arms in the map of the county published by Dr. Plot in his *Natural History*.

It was afterwards occupied by the widow of James, Duke of

¹ *Calendar for Compounding*, Part ii, p. 1421.

² *Committee for Advance of Money*, Part ii, p. 766.

³ This extract is from a History of

the 'Blue Nuns' in Paris of the Order of the Conception. Published in *Archaeologia*, Feb. 14, 1839, in a letter written from John Gage Rookwode, F.R.S., to Sir Henry Ellis.

Monmouth (beheaded on Tower Hill, July 14, 1685¹), and of her third son, who was created Earl of Deloraine in 1706. He and his first wife were buried at Sandford St. Martin in 1720 and 1730 respectively. After this the house was pulled down by the trustees of Mrs. Heywood², and not a stone remains to mark the site.

Sir Charles Smith, of Wooton-Wawen, Warwickshire, was made Baron Carrington of Wooton-Wawen and Viscount Carrington of Burford in Connaught, Ireland. Being heart and soul in sympathy with the King, the Parliament confiscated his estates and ordered their sale in 1646. The *Calendar for Compounding*, p. 1914, gives us this account:—

‘Sir Charles Smith, Recusant, Wooton-Wawen, and Ashby Folville. Claimants on the estate.

Aug. 1650. Lady Elizabeth wife begs allowance of her fifths of his sequestered estates in cos. Warwick, Leicester, Oxford, Salop and Lincoln.

March 28, 1651. Lady Smith complains that though she has received a third part of her husband’s sequestered estate in Oxon., yet the present County Commissioners allege want of power to continue the said allowance.

Her son Francis Smith forwards her petition to Bailey and requests his furtherance.

Aug. 9, 1650. Carryl, John, Charles, Anne, Mary, Lucy, children of Sir Charles Smith, by discharge of lands, co. Leicester, settled on Sir Edward Ford, of Harting, Sussex, and others, etc. . . .

Jan. 29, 1652. Granted to those under age and the rest taking the oath of Abjuration.’

During this time Lord Carrington appears to have lived abroad, and after escaping the perils of loyalty and religion in his own land, met an untimely death by the hand of one of his own servants at Pontoise, February, 1664–5, where a monumental inscription marks his burial.

One of his daughters became Abbess of the Benedictine Abbey at Ghent, now at Oulton, Staffordshire; two sons succeeded each other as second and third Barons Carrington, but they having no issue, the title became extinct, and the family name and traditions were carried to the family of Smythe of Acton Burnell, through the marriage of Grace Carrington, niece to the two late Barons, with Sir Richard Smythe³.

¹ See curious particulars of the Duke of Monmouth in *Collectanea*, vol. iii, O. H. S., 1896.

² It would appear from the Reports of the Charity Commissioners that Mary

Heywood was the heir-at-law of Samuel Wilmot.

³ Pedigree at the end of *The Benedictines of Ghent*, published at Oulton, and *Complete Peerage*, by G. E. C.

Francis, second Lord Carrington, was not forgotten by the informers of the day, always alive to plunder Recusants.

GEORGE HILTON TO ROGER KENYON.

'*Jan. 21, 1681-2.* I heartily wish you a good journey to London. . . . I also intreat you to imploy some for me to search the returns in the Exchequer, whether that Francis Lord Carrington be returned a convicted recusant or not, ether returned out of Warwickshire or Oxfordshire. His two places of abode in Howton in Warwickshire and Leadwell in Oxfordshire. . . . I desire to have a copy of his conviction attested under seale, or so as it will serve in court to be pleaded against him, in case I be forced upon such a plea for my own safety and preservation¹.'

Francis, son of the first Lord Carrington of Acton, co. Salop, was father to a child who is buried at Kidlington. It would seem likely that he was occupying Ledwell Park.

The place appears to have been known sometimes as 'Peytos²,' perhaps after some tenant.

¹ *14th Report Historical MSS., App., Part iv, p. 134* (published 1894).

² *Kelly's Directory*, under Sandford.

PART III. SECTION II

KIDDINGTON AND RADFORD

FAMILIES OF BROWNE AND BOWDEN

KIDDINGTON

FAMILY OF BROWNE.

IN the days of Henry VIII, Sir Anthony Browne and Sir Edward Gage were comrades in arms before Boulogne. Sir Anthony married his friend's daughter, Alice Gage, and their eldest son Anthony was created Viscount Montague, whose eldest son, another Anthony, died in his father's lifetime, leaving, by his wife Mary Dormer, two sons—Anthony and John. With Anthony, the second Viscount, we are not concerned; John had a son Stanislaus, of whom presently. Sir Henry Browne of Kiddington was the third son of the first Viscount Montague, by his second wife Magdalen Dacres. That the family held property in this part of Oxfordshire before the date usually assigned seems evident from the following notes.

Warton, in his *History of Kiddington*, gives the date 1613 for the purchase of this estate, with Asterley, from the Babbingtons. Now a Commission was appointed to sit at Chipping Norton, Jan. 18, 1583, to arrange disputes between Anthony Browne (probably him who died v. p.) and Sir John Conway, who was Governor of Ostend in 1586, and was probably a friend of the Brownes in Flanders¹. The report runs as follows:—

‘Chipping Norton, Jan. 18, 1583. Report of Henry Unton and others, Arbitrators appointed by the Council to settle the controversies between Sir John Conway and Anthony Bowrne (*sic*). Willingness of both parties to come to agreement. Intermarriage of their children. Endeavours to effect a reconciliation between Mr. Bowrne and his wife. Indenture of

¹ See *State Papers Domestic*, 1581-90, p. 91.

award between Henry Unton, James Croft, Henry Goodere and John Chamberleyne of the first part, Sir John Conway of the second part and Anthony Bowne of the third part, for settlement of the estates of the said Anthony Bowne and for the wardship and marriage of Amy and Mary Bowne his daughters.'

Add to this—'Dame Ebba (Frances) Browne of Kiddington, born 1609, professed at Cambrai 1629, and died there 1651'¹; and we have sufficient reason to consider Warton's date as rather late; perhaps his date may be the final settlement of the purchase, not the first settlement of the family.

We come now to the days of Charles I, when in spite of the King's own endeavours and kindly wishes, the Oxfordshire Recusants were more than usually harried. Some gentlemen, headed by Stanislaus Browne, above mentioned, presented a petition to Parliament against the penal laws in 1641. Their names were Stanislaus Browne, Henry Arundell, Robert Brudenell, Edward Stourton, Charles Paris, and John Chamberlain². Sir Henry had sufficient influence at Court to procure one of those exemptions from fines for recusancy which were known as 'compositions,' and given under the Great Seal³.

'*Jan.* The King to the Judges of King's Bench and the Attorney General: Sir Anthony Browne of Kiddington Oxon and Elizabeth his wife and Peter his son and Margaret his wife, standing indicted for recusancy at the last Quarter Sessions for that county, the indictment is to be removed into the King's Bench and no further proceedings to be had thereon until the King's pleasure be further known⁴.'

This favour did not pass unrequited, for Sir Peter Browne joined the royal army, and being mortally wounded at Naseby, died in Oxford, leaving an elder son Henry, who appears to have followed the Prince (Charles II) into Flanders, and whose patent of Baronetcy was dated at Brussels, 1st July, 1659.

In 1687 Sir Henry served the office of High Sheriff for Oxfordshire, his religion proving no bar in the mind of the King, although the opinion of the county was so far adverse to a Catholic holding that office, that the ancient custom ceased this year to be observed, viz. that men of high position and estate should ride in the train of the

¹ *Benedictine Necrology*.

² See *4th Report of Hist. MSS.*, p. 84.

³ Butler's *Memoirs of Catholics*, vol. iv, p. 59: 'The King (Charles I) sometimes gives a paper under the

great seal by which the Catholics are exempted from going to the churches and from many other penal enactments. These papers are called "compositions".'

⁴ *Cal. of State Papers*, 1637, p. 407.

Sheriff while he escorted the Judges¹. Wood tells us that on this occasion Sir Henry had about '30 liveries, green faced with red, when he attended Dean Massey's Chapel at Christchurch².'

The invasion of William of Orange was the signal for the Catholic gentlemen to muster their men and arm in defence of their King. In November, 1688, we read that 'Sir Henry Browne and Sir Charles Yates of Buckland came to Oxford at night to raise a troop of horse to go against the invaders. They took only Papists.'

LIST OF PAPISTS IN JULY, 1706³.

Chadlington Hundred.

'Upper Kiddington. Richard Clements, carpenter, and his wife; John Smith, labourer, and his wife; Richard Meades, mason, and his wife; Wm. Nickolls; Thomas Yoxon, tailor, and his wife.

Enstone or Radford. Richard Clements of Radford, carpenter (and probably the same as above); Bartholomew Styles of Radford, he is also returned at Hardwick near Bampton.

In Hundred of Wootton.

Nether Kiddington. Sir Charles Browne, Bart.; Dame Mary his wife; George Browne, Esqre; Mrs. Mary Browne and Mrs. Frances Browne, infants; Anne Greene and Frances Clements, servants.'

We now come to the non-juring days and find in Cosin's *List*, in 1715-16:—

'Sir Charles Browne of Kiddington, Bart., estate there entailed on George Browne his only son, subject to leases granted by himself and Dame Frances, widow, his mother, and an Indenture about Glebe to which his father Sir Henry Browne was a party, £647 7s. 4d.

Dame Frances Browne of Kiddington widow, annuity of £200 out of the estate with power of distress by virtue of Indenture tripartite between herself, Sir Charles her son and Dame Mary his wife on the 1st part and of George Hill on the 2nd part: £200. She in habits the mansion with her son and has the little parlour and room beyond.'

Lady Frances, so humbly housed, was a daughter of the Earl of Worcester; no doubt her home and chapel were dearer to her than any strange dwelling could have been. Sir Charles's wife was one of the Pitts of Hampshire, a family which had given many confessors to the Church.

¹ See Davenport's *High Sheriffs*, p. 75.

² *Life and Times*, vol.iii, pp. 260-81.

³ List kept at Woodstock.

In 1718 we find the following list of gentlemen seized at Bath and sent confined to London under a guard, by order of the Secretary of State :—Sir George Browne, Captain Andrew Doyle, Mr. Richard Mackdonnell, Mr. Dannell Dunn, Captain Ch. St. Claire, John Landsdowne, Esq., of Woodborough, Mr. James Machartney, William Hibber Barbor¹.

From this it would appear that Sir Charles Browne's son had been implicated in some youthful indiscretions.

Sir George Browne will be long remembered as the hero of Pope's *Rape of the Lock*; 'Sir Plume' to Miss Fermor's 'Belinda.' He married the Lady Barbara Lee, daughter of the Earl of Lichfield, and had by her an only daughter, Barbara. His second wife was Mrs. Holman, widow of William Holman of Warkworth, and by birth a Wells of Brambridge, Hants; this lady died in childbed, after which loss her husband married thirdly Mrs. Frances Fermor, who was a Sheldon by birth and widow of Henry Fermor of Tusmore.

We are told that Sir George Browne lost his life by the sad accident of being bled with a lancet charged with matter for inoculating for the small-pox². He died in 1754, and the estates passed to his only child Barbara, the Baronetcy becoming extinct.

Barbara Browne, the heiress of Kiddington, married Sir Edward Mostyn of Telacre, and had two sons; Charles, the younger, by his grandfather's will, inherited the estate of Kiddington, and assumed the name of Browne.

Lady Mostyn made a second marriage and became Mrs. Gore, leaving two sons by her second husband at her death.

Names of the members of the Browne family who are buried in the vault in Kiddington church, from *Warton* (published in 1815):—

- Sir Henry Browne, 1638.
- Sir Peter Browne, 1645, aged 30.
- Sir Henry Browne, 1689, aged 50.
- Sir Charles Browne, 1751, aged 88.
- Sir George Browne, 1754, aged 60.
- Barbara Gore, 1770, aged 12 } children of Lady Mostyn
- Francis Gore, 1764, aged 2 } by her second marriage.

The further descent of the family from Barbara Browne and Sir Edward Mostyn is as follows :—

¹ 4th Report Hist. MSS., p. 366.

² See Skelton's *Oxfordshire*.

The second son of this Mostyn marriage took the additional name of Browne under his grandfather's will and became known as Browne-Mostyn. By his second wife, Miss Anne Tucker, he had Charles, his heir; Francis, the Bishop of Abydos; and several daughters. He survived his son Charles by twenty years, but does not appear to have lived constantly at Kiddington, as his son's widow is entered as the tenant of the place in *Carey's Road Book*, and his grandchildren were born there. From one cause or another the estate passed from the control of Mr. Browne-Mostyn during his lifetime, which lasted until 1844. While he had the power, however, he made provision for the building of a chapel at Radford, to follow the domestic chapel at Kiddington, lost to Catholics by the sale of the estate.

Baptised '1830, 3rd April, George Charles Mostyn son of George and Caroline (olim Vansittart).'

'1838. 25th April. Montague Henry Mostyn son of George Mostyn Baron Vaux de Harrowden and Caroline (olim Vansittart) ¹.'

PRIESTS THAT SERVED AS CHAPLAINS AT KIDDINGTON.

The earliest names we find here belong to the Benedictines. Dom Bennet Smith may probably have been the first, as he was tutor to Anthony, brother to Sir Henry Browne, with whom he went abroad²; he died in 1636.

At this place we may insert the name of a 'Discalced' Carmelite Father:—

'Christopher Lee, or Leigh, said by some to have been born in Oxford in 1600. He became a Carmelite under the name of "Francis of the Saints." After his noviciate abroad he returned to England about the year 1633 and was then Vicar-Provincial of the Order in England. In a letter to his Superior he remarks, "There are so many priests in this country that it is difficult to find shelter for them all." It appears that Father Francis lived for several years in the house of Sir Peter Browne of Kiddington, where he devoted himself to the service of the numerous Catholics living in the neighbourhood. Father Francis went up to London to visit his brother in prison, a Dominican Friar, who was awaiting his trial, and was himself arrested and thrown into the King's Bench prison where he died peaceably after three weeks confinement on the 26th Dec. 1641 ³.'

¹ From the *Catholic Register of Kiddington*.

³ *Carmel in England*, by Father B. Zimmermann, p. 108.

² See Weldon.

1624. At this date Dom Robert Sherwood entered upon the English Mission; he had been professed in 1613 at St. Gregory's, Douay, now Downside. How many years he spent here we know not, but he died at Kiddington on January 17, 1665, aged 77, 'after having discreetly managed the chief offices of the Congregation'.¹ Born at Bath, 1588².

1688. Brother Wilfrid Reeve, O.S.B., of Magdalen School, was at Kiddington this year.

1701. Dom Oswald Smithers, professed in 1694 at SS. Adrien et Denis, Lambspring; was at Kiddington from 1701 until his death there on December 26, 1725³.

1703 till 1711? Dom Bernard Queyneo, professed in 1693 at St. Laurence's, Dieulevart, Antwerp, appears to have been at Kiddington at this time; he was at Bath in 1711, and died at Cambray 1731⁴. This name is supposed to be foreign, and no more is at present known of Dom Queyneo. Other Benedictines probably served here.

Now follow some Jesuit Fathers:—

1724. Father Francis Gibson, S.J., was born in Warwickshire in 1669. He was admitted to the Society January 20, 1687, and was at Kiddington in 1724; he died there April 5, 1738, aet. 68⁵. In 1698 his name occurs as legatee in the will of Mrs. Catherine Winford, together with many other priests⁶.

1748? Father John Jackson, S.J., alias Johnston, was Superior of the Oxfordshire District in this year. We have no mention of his residence at Kiddington excepting from his will, which he made here in 1750.

'John Jackson of Kiddington, Gent. (Rev'd.) bequeaths all his goods to Cornelius Morphy of St. George's Hanover Square and Bernard Crosse of St. James', Westminster, gent. to be distributed between them, they to be his executors⁷.'

He must have left Kiddington very soon after this, for 'he was recalled to Liège to be Rector of the English College there in 1752, while he was serving on the Mission of Croston, Lancashire. He died at Spa, on the 19th of June in the same year⁸'.

1770. R. D.⁹ Lee. The name of one pastor we only learn from

¹ Weldon.

² *Necrology*.

³ *Benedictine Necrology*.

⁴ *Necrology*, u. s.

⁵ Foley, vol. vii; Oliver's *Biography S. J.*, and *Catholic Reg.* of Waterperry.

⁶ Payne's *Records*, p. 112.

⁷ See 10th Report Hist. MSS., App. iv, p. 183.

⁸ Oliver, *Biographies*.

⁹ These initials, I believe, stand for Rev. Mr., not for the Christian name.

the Bishop's *Confirmation Book*:—‘26th July 1770, a Confirmation was held at Kiddington. R. D. Lee, pastor.’ At the time nine persons were confirmed; in 1788 ten from Kiddington were confirmed at Heythrop; in 1805 there were forty-two at Kiddington. Other Confirmations were held here in November, 1806; June, 1816; August, 1819; October, 1820¹.

THE REV. SAMUEL ROCK.

We now come to the last chaplain at Kiddington, the Rev. Samuel Rock, in whose time the old domestic chapel was closed and the new Mission begun in the neighbouring village of Radford.

Mr. Rock came from a Staffordshire family, living at Walsall. His mother was of an old Catholic family, his father a convert. The manner of the father's conversion was thought to be of sufficient note to be recorded upon a large stone tablet placed on the outside of St. Mary's Church, Walsall, at the north-west corner:—

‘Pray for the soul of Samuel Rock, who died 4th Sept. 1788, aged 66 years. In the 40th year of his age he became from conviction and the force of truth a Convert to the Catholic Church, and continued a faithful member of it to his death. From a sincere love of his countrymen and a desire of leading them to the same blessing, He, while in perfect health, by his last Will and Testament ordered this declaration to be inscribed upon his Tombstone. This his dying wish has been fulfilled by his eldest son, the Rev. Samuel Rock, a Roman Catholic Priest. May he rest in peace. Amen².’

Mr. Rock had three sons, viz. Samuel, the subject of this notice, Benjamin, and Joseph, who continued the family, and was father of the Rev. Samuel Rock, of Oxbro', Norfolk, the author of *The Hierugia*, also of John, and of a deaf and dumb daughter. Upon the death of the elder Samuel, the sons sold the property in the parishes of Bloxwich and Essington, co. Stafford.

The Rev. Samuel Rock was educated at Douay, which place he left in 1787, as we learn from a note in his own handwriting upon a scrap of paper; and as the Register, in his hand, begins on the 27th of January, 1788, Kiddington must have been his first Mission,

¹ See above, *Confirmation Book*, and Husenbeth's *Life of Bishop Milner*.

² Inscription copied for me by the kindness of Dr. J. MacCarten of Wal-

sall; the particulars of the family obtained from papers at Radford left by Mr. Rock.

and here he continued until his death in 1839. In the early portion of this period he had charge of Heythrop, and we find his name recorded in the books belonging to that place as 'pastor' in 1788 and onwards till 1790.

Whether Dr. Rock ever lived in the mansion with the family is uncertain, probably he did not, for he occupied a cottage at Radford upon the Enstone Road for some years before he moved into the present Presbytery in the village, which he purchased in 1822. During his incumbency the French priests were applying for faculties in England, and the following letter will show in some measure how the matter was viewed by the Bishop. This letter from Bishop Berington is preserved among the papers at Radford: it seems to show that some family, other than that of Kiddington, wished for Mass in their house. Perhaps the Bowdons? Perhaps Idbury?

TO THE REV. SAM. ROCK.

'Long Birch, May ye 22d '96.

SIR,—In answer to your queries I must observe, first that the permission for you to duplicate was only asked for, in case of illness and inability to attend public service: and most certainly only granted by me, because Bp. Talbot had thought proper to do it, and I therefore looked upon it in the light of a continuation of the same grant, rather than my own act and deed. For I would not grant it on any other consideration, to any other person in the District, unless my predecessor had used them to it, which I believe is not the case, in any other instance. With regard to the Missionary faculties, which I may have granted to some few emigrants, it has always been with the consent and approbation of the respective pastors, in whose congregations they were to be exercised. When Mr. Fermor wrote to me, to request that I would give faculties to a French clergyman, I expressly mentioned that condition, viz. that it must be considered as absolutely necessary to have the consent and approbation of the respective pastors, in whose flocks he meant to exercise them. And I should not hesitate to recall the faculties which I may have given from any emigrant, who shall have dared to put his sickle into another man's harvest, without his consent or approbation: or at least, who should continue to do it, after being properly admonished by the lawful Pastor. Mr. Wright desires his compliments.

I am, Sir, with all due regard,

Your obedient humble Servant,

CHARLES BERINGTON.'

To proceed with Mr. Rock. About this period the old order was changing; the old Catholic chaplaincies were breaking up and gradually making way for new public chapels and churches. Mr. Roc

felt his way to the dawning light, and loyally aided by the families around, he arranged to purchase a plot of land with a house in Radford. This came out of the broken-up property of the Bowdons, and was part of the land, and the same house, where William Taylor had lived¹. For this he gave £470. He fitted up an Oratory in an attic, and there he continued to say Mass until the new chapel was opened, and even after that time the Blessed Sacrament was still carried thither every evening for safety, during many years.

The plan for building a chapel at Radford was discussed between Mr. Rock and Mr. Browne-Mostyn, with the co-operation of the Bowdons, about 1839. Kiddington was at this time for sale, and the old domestic chapel consequently unavailable.

The three letters quoted further on, and written immediately upon the death of Mr. Rock, to his successor, show that it was felt that the time had come to make a change.

By his will, Mr. Rock left his property to the Bishop, which his brother Joseph disputed, and eventually a compromise was made; the Rock family received a certain sum of money, and the deaf and dumb sister an annuity of £10.

‘Bicester, 7th March, 1840.

DEAR SIR,—On the other side is a statement of my valuation of the Property at Radford. I spoke to Mrs. Manning about the Chalice, Vestments, etc., which Mrs. Manning will give to the place they are wanted for.

J. CLEMENTS.

A Statement of all the Household furniture and other Effects of the late Revd. Sam. Rock, deceased at Radford Oxon. Household furniture, Plate, Linen, China, Books and Pictures.

Wearing apparel	. . .	£140	os.	od. ²
Wine and spirits	. . .	£10	os.	od.

Freehold house and Cottage adjoining with garden and orchard situate in the village of Radford, £550. Total, £700.

Signed, Jas. Clements, Appraiser, Bicester, Oxon., 5th March, 1840.’

Addressed to the Rev. P. Heffernan, who at that time was serving the Mission at Heythrop.

¹ See the family notices.

² This probably included vestments.

RADFORD

FAMILIES OF CLEMENTS AND TAYLOR.

We find the family of Clements residing in this part of the county as early as 1635. Their name appears in a 'Quietus Roll,' 11th Charles I, as Catholics: 'Farm of Thomas Clements and his wife, Charlbury; £53 6s. 8d.'

Richard Clements, of Radford, was buried at Enstone in 1697, and the name of 'Anne Clements, widow, jointure house at Radford,' occurs amongst the Non-Jurors in 1715¹.

About the same time the Taylors were settled at Radford, and in 1745 a daughter of Edward Taylor, having married Thomas Clements, 'ironmonger, armourer, and brazier,' of Shoreditch, London, Clements began a Chancery suit against the Taylor family. The Taylors are said to have held property in St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, from the year 1701, bought in that year by Daniel Taylor, 'citizen and armourer of London.' The above Edward and Daniel Taylor had three more brothers, one of whom, Joseph, held the manor of Sandford St. Martin and became High Sheriff of Oxfordshire in 1729. Of the same family were John Taylor, who also served as High Sheriff in 1742, and James in 1803². The last male heir of this elder branch died in 1828, leaving all the Radford property to his cousins, the Bowdons; his daughter married Nicholas Marshall, Esq., whose descendants still enjoy the Sandford property.

This account of the Taylors is drawn up from papers kept at Radford, and from information by the Rev. Edward Marshall, of Sandford. It is a curious thing that when William Taylor died at Radford there was found in his house an old sword which seemed to have come from the family, who were 'armourers' of the city of London. Susannah Taylor sat for her portrait to Sir Joshua Reynolds; it is still at Sandford, and has been engraved.

To return to Edward Taylor of Radford. One of his sons, William, lived in the house now used as the Presbytery, and a daughter became the wife of Thomas Clements.

Thomas Clements left two daughters—Mary, married to James de Lont; and Elizabeth, married first to Tufton, and secondly to

¹ See Cosin's *List*, and Payne's *Non-jurors*.

² Davenport's *Lord-Lieutenants of Oxfordshire*.

George Bowdon, of Radford. The two sisters shared the Radford property between them.

The son of James de Lont became a Dominican, and the following short sketch of his life is communicated by the Rev. Father Raymond Palmer, O.P., of Haverstock Hill Priory :—

‘Father Hyacinth de Lont Brown (Brown was an alias) was born in London, Feb. 23, 1754, and baptised the same day at the German Chapel. He was educated at Sedgeley Park school, and having entered the Jesuit College, and left it in 1772, he joined the English Dominicans and received the religious habit, Oct. 21, 1773, at the Priory of the Holy Cross, Bornheim in Flanders, from the Prior (Father Andrew Gage), and commenced his noviciate there under F. J. Dom: Verschaffelt: he made his solemn profession at the age (25) prescribed by the edict of the Emperor Joseph, Feb. 23, 1779, through the Prior, F. John Kearton. He studied Philosophy and Theology at the English Dominican Convent at Louvain for about four years. In 1788 he had an attack of pulmonary hæmorrhage, which, occurring periodically through the rest of his life, wholly disabled him from ever resuming any active duty. He fled with the Community before the French Republican army in June, 1794, and resided with his brethren at Carshalton from that year until 1811; then he went to Woburn Lodge, near Chertsey, and in 1815 settled at Hinckley, Leicestershire, where he died in the seventy-third year of his age and the forty-eighth of his religious profession.’

The following epitaph is at Hinckley :—

‘Rev. Thomas Hyacinth Brown O.S.D. died Dec. 2d, 1826, aged 72 years. R. I. P.’

A few additional notes about the Clements may be added.

Mrs. Mary Clements, née Taylor, was in possession of a farm at Gagingwall, which she demised in 1759 to William Townsend of Tysoe, Warwickshire. She died in 1763; a certain Mary Clements, wife of Richard Waghorne of Shoreditch, also received money from the Taylor family¹.

John and Elizabeth Clements lived at Kiddington. Their children were: Joseph, born 1788; James, born 1791; John, born 1794.

John and Charlotte Clements lived at Charlbury. Their children were: Elizabeth, born 1788; Ann, born 1793.

One family of Clements lived at Road-Enstone. Jane Clements married Cook of Cleveley. Some of the family settled at Somerton².

¹ From Taylor papers at Radford.

² From old Catholic Register of Kiddington.

THE BOWDON FAMILY.

The following particulars are all taken from papers kept at Radford. Mr. John Bowdon, of Beightonfields, co. Derby, married, for the third time, the daughter of Caesar Johnson, of Shelfield, co. Warwick, in the parish of Aston Cantlow. In the year 1782 Mrs. Bowdon made her will, and is therein described as 'Mrs. Mary Bowdon, widow, of Barlborough, in co. Derby.' To her son, George Bowdon, she bequeathed all her estates in Warwickshire (except the half of which she had otherwise disposed), also half of the farm and lands in Sheffield, Yorkshire, in possession of Amos Meymott, and also her lands in Sutton-in-Ashfield, co. Notts.; she left £100 to Anne, daughter of her son George, and to her son James she left divers estates in Yorkshire and Derbyshire.

The above-mentioned estates in Warwickshire appear to be, from a valuation drawn up in view of sale in the year 1787, the Manor and Priory of Wootton-Wawen, under lease from King's College, Cambridge¹, consisting, more or less, of five farms, and a house in Wootton valued at £830 per annum, and a freehold estate of two farms, more or less, one in Whitley Field, the other in Preston Bagot, valued at £331 per annum. It will be useful here, in order to explain an intricate matter of family history, to say that Wootton-Wawen consisted of several manors. The chief manor belonged to the Harewells, whose heiress married Sir John Smyth, a judge, and they became the ancestors of Smith, Lord Carrington². In 1758 the last male heir of the Carringtons, descended from the brother of the first Lord Carrington, died, leaving two nieces co-heiresses—one a nun O.S.B. at Cambray, the other wife of John Wright, of Kelvedon; and subsequently of Peter Holford, by whom she had an only daughter, who was married in 1781 to Sir Edward Smythe of Eshe, co. Durham, and of Acton Burnell, Shropshire, and who carried the Wootton-Wawen property to him. The Bowdons offered their estate in Wootton-Wawen for sale in 1787, and an undated letter exists from Jennings, the valuer and agent, of Somerton, to Mr. George Bowdon, placing before him an offer from the above Sir Edward Smythe to purchase the same. Sir Edward was on his way to Durham, and contemplated selling his estate in that county, and in case he came

¹ A lease from Dr. Cooke and the Scholars of Trinity College is dated 1776.

² Dugdale's *Warwickshire*; Payne's *Non-Jurors*; *Burke's Peerage*.

to terms with Mr. Bowdon he would put it up for sale at once. The sum offered to Mr. Bowdon was £21,000, that is, twenty-nine years' purchase for the freehold and fourteen years' for the College land.

Up to the time of his mother's death Mr. George Bowdon appears to have lived at Wootton-Wawen; the year after its sale he bought the manor of Towersey, co. Bucks., and held his Court Leet there in 1791; this estate remained in his family until sold by his great-grandson¹. Among the papers at Radford is preserved the will of the Hon. Mrs. West, one of the original owners of the Towersey property.

In the meanwhile Mr. Bowdon had married Mrs. Elizabeth Tufton, née Clements, who had been keeping house at Radford since 1759, and they had three sons and two daughters². Mr. Bowdon died intestate in 1791, and letters of administration were taken out by the widow and the eldest son George, and an assignment in trust made by them, on behalf of the younger children, to Caesar Johnson of Shelfield and James Bowdon of Barlborough, the uncle.

Mrs. Elizabeth Bowdon, née Clements, the widow, died December, 1804. In her will, dated the previous year, she remembers her own relations and leaves to her sister's child, Mary de Lont, £10, and to her cousin, James Taylor of Sandford, £5 5s.; to each of her younger children £10. Her eldest son, George Bowdon of Charlbury, and his second brother, John, bought property in Radford, which was all sold in 1822, and mostly bought by Mr. Hall, of Oxford. The third brother was the Rev. Joseph Bowdon, President of Sedgley Park School. At his death in 1844 he left £1000 to the Radford Mission; his two sisters remained in the old house, bought from Mr. Sullivan Marten, until their death. The younger one, Miss Anne, died in 1834, leaving generous legacies to all her humble friends round about, and was buried in the family vault in Kiddington Church. Miss Mary Bowdon, the elder sister, lived on alone another twenty years. At her death she left a considerable sum of money to each of the Missions of Radford, Chipping Norton, and Tamworth.

In the Catholic Church at Radford are the following inscriptions:—

'Pray for the soul of Mary Bowdon, who departed this life the 12th day of March, A.D. 1854, aged 81 years. Whose body is deposited in the churchyard adjoining. Pater, Ave.'

'John Witham, Esq.; died at Enslow on the 15th Oct. 1870, in his 77th year.'

¹ See Sheaham's *History of Bucks.*

Bowdon was godmother to a child

² Heythrop Catholic Register; Mrs. there.

John Witham was son of William Witham and Dorothy Langdale, and with him is buried his little grand-nephew, Philip Witham Turner, of Enslow Bridge, Oxon.

With the death of Dr. Rock in May, 1839, closes the history of the Kiddington Mission, the Mission of Radford taking its place. The Rev. P. Heffernan, of Heythrop, took charge of matters in their transitional state, assisted for a year by the Rev. Michael Gannon, a young Oscott priest, whom the Bishop had deputed to help Mr. Heffernan while suffering from a broken collar-bone.

RADFORD CHAPEL.

The building of the chapel was now entered upon in earnest, and the negotiations will be sufficiently explained by the extracts from three letters from Mr. Charles Browne-Mostyn upon the subject. The first is addressed to Mr. Heffernan, Nov. 23, 1839, in which he says:—

‘I lose no time in answering you as clearly as I can respecting our Chapel project in favour of a mission at Radford, which I see the religious importance of as you do. With such opinions as those . . . you may certainly proceed as sole Executor upon Mr. Rock’s will, I should think with safety. Dr. Walsh, you tell me, has written to say he will assign all the property belonging to Mr. Rock to the Radford Mission. Miss Bowdon, that excellent good friend of ours, . . . again offers her assistance with her well-known zeal. . . . Rev. Mr. Jos. Bowdon, both as a wealthy gentleman and a zealous ecclesiastic, we do not doubt will also come forward. . . . I should advise my applying to him. . . . As for myself I have already assured the Bishop that besides all the ornaments, plate, benches, altar and altar painting, which is a very appropriate one, to the same good purpose, I would join with Mr. J. Bowdon and Miss Bowdon, and would contribute my share in the building the Chapel *one third*, provided however that we confine ourselves to the erecting one as shall answer the purpose for such a country congregation as Radford has, and is likely to have there, and nothing more. . . . I do not see that for the accomplishment of the chapel we shall have to call upon him (the Bishop) for anything more than what he offers. The appointment of a priest and permanent maintenance to do duty must be a separate consideration, which I will not enter into now. . . . When we have all agreed upon one plan, as I cannot now dispose of a single tree on my *cy-devant* Estate, I may propose to Lord Shrewsbury’s agent or to himself, to allow the little timber we must want, to be afforded us from Heythrop, which I make no doubt his Lordship will allow us. . . .’

The second letter is addressed to Mr. T. Stanbridge and the Rev. Mr. Heffernan :—

'Kiddington, Dec. 14, 1839. I have not lost sight of our Radford undertaking. Before the 1st Jan. I shall forward to you a regular plan of the chapel for your and Miss Bowdon's approval, also a similar one to my son Francis for his and the Bishop's do.; and probably a similar one for Rev. Mr. Bowdon. . . . I don't give up my hope of getting some timber from Heythrop, and I shall write to my great cousin Lord Shrewsbury himself, and flatter myself he will assist us. . . .'

The third letter is addressed to the Rev. P. Heffernan :—

'Jan. 8th, 1840. My dear Sir, I feel grieved to hear from Mr. Stanbridge this day that you have had a bad fall, and he tells me have broke the collar-bone. . . . From one (a letter) from Wolverhampton, my son tells me the Bishop was sending to your assistance a young countryman of yours lately ordained, named Gannon. This I am glad to learn, for indeed you have had, especially all that wet weather, a severe employ. . . . I shall forward this day, or to-morrow at latest, my promised plan for the Radford Chapel, which I beg of you to send over to Miss Bowdon for her opinion and your own, and I hope it will meet with your and her approbation. . . . 3 Montague Square¹.'

The chapel was a year in building, and was solemnly opened by Dr. Wiseman on the 20th January, 1840. The cloister leading from the Church to the Presbytery was built later by the Rev. Mr. Winter. Having no iron safe, he was in the habit of carrying the Blessed Sacrament every night into the old Oratory in the house, and he considered it more convenient and respectful to do so under cover.

The picture mentioned by Mr. Browne-Mostyn as an altar-piece, formerly in Kiddington Chapel, is now in its old position over the altar. It is a Crucifixion, and is a picture of some merit, pronounced to be Italian work of the seventeenth century by Mr. Wainwright, an artist in Birmingham, to whom it was entrusted in 1895 for cleaning and repairs. It was doubtless brought from Italy by some member of the Browne family.

THE OPENING OF THE CHAPEL AT RADFORD².

'On Sunday, the 19th, the Right Rev. Dr. Wiseman preached two sermons at Banbury in aid of the Choir. On the following day (i. e. Monday, the 20th) he proceeded to Radford, a village in the neighbour-

¹ These letters are preserved at Radford.

² Copied from *The Tablet*, Jan. 23, 1841, p. 55.

hood, to open the new Chapel which has lately been erected there after the design of Mr. Pugin. It had become necessary to build one on account of the sale of the estate and house at Kiddington where a chapel had formerly existed.

The new building is in the early pointed style, extremely simple, and small, but sufficient for the congregation, and truly Catholic. The entrance is on the south through a simple porch ; the roof is open to the slates, but they are hid by boards jointed together and stained. There are three stained glass windows over the altar ; a niche with the statue of Our Blessed Lady on the Gospel side of the Sanctuary and the piscina on the opposite one.

The whole building, including the altar, tabernacle, and vestry, has cost little more than £600. The Rev. P. Heffernan celebrated Mass on the occasion, and the Rt. Rev. Dr. Wiseman preached an excellent sermon on the Supremacy of the Popes, as proved by its universality and its unity, "which cannot be accounted for without supposing the hand of God has supported it and his Wisdom ordained it."

The extraordinary event in our days of a Bishop being consigned to the common gaol must be mentioned here, as a portion of the endowment of the Radford Mission was the reason for so strange a circumstance.

COPY OF CIRCULAR SENT BY DR. ULLATHORNE TO HIS CLERGY.

‘Warwick Gaol.

April 27, 1853.

REVD. AND DEAR SIR,

You will have heard already of my being arrested and lodged in the Gaol at Warwick, in company with the Rev. Dr. Moore, the President of the College at Oscott. An event so extraordinary imposes on me the duty of explaining to you and the Catholic community the circumstances that have led to such a result.

During the administration of my Predecessor, the late Right Rev. Dr. Walsh, the late Charles Browne-Mostyn, Esq., was desirous of adding to the endowment of the Mission at Radford, in the immediate vicinity of his residence at Kiddington in Oxfordshire. For that purpose he gave eighty shares in the Monmouthshire and Glamorganshire Banking Company, and transferred them into the names of the Right Rev. Dr. Walsh, then Vicar Apostolic of the Central District, and the Right Rev. Dr. Wiseman, then President of St. Mary's College at Oscott, and, by a formal deed of trust, he appointed that their successors in those offices, for the time being, should always be the holders of these shares in trust for the Radford Mission. On my succeeding Dr. Walsh as Vicar Apostolic I also succeeded to the trust, together with the Rev. Dr. Moore, the succeeding President of Oscott, but, it is obvious, without taking any beneficial interest whatever

in the shares in question; and when sometime afterwards a call of £3 per share was made on the shareholders, we were obliged to decline paying it, having no funds for the purpose, and the Clergyman of the Mission himself procured the money, which amounted to £240.

In the Autumn of 1851 the Company became Bankrupt to a very large amount, for which we are liable, jointly with the other shareholders. We had no property of our own, yet after taking the counsel of our friends, we entered into an engagement to pay £1000, which sum we borrowed for the purpose, and paid in full confidence, under the representation then made that no further claim would be pressed against us.

The affairs have since been brought under the Court of Chancery, and this agreement has not been carried out, but an additional call has been made upon us of £60 a share, amounting to £4800, towards which the sum of £1000 already paid has been considered part. We thus received notice to pay £3800, but we replied that it was utterly impossible for us to meet the demand, that the £1000 already paid was not our own, that we had no means of raising more, and that all we could do would be to surrender our few personal effects, such as books, vestments, etc.

Of these our solicitor obtained and presented a valuation, which did not amount to £200 for both of us together. This sum we offered to raise, but our proposal was declined by the official managers, who in all their communications, whether personal or in writing, either with our solicitor or with the Rev. E. Escourt, did not dispute our statements or our personal inability to pay, but alleged that the Catholic Community would not fail to assist us in finding the money, if process was pressed against us.

I can easily understand that it was difficult at first for the official managers to understand the honourable poverty of a Catholic Bishop, but during the course of the past year my circumstances have been so carefully and repeatedly explained to them, and the reasons which bind me to a life of poverty were so ingenuously laid open to them, that it is impossible to acquit them of a complete knowledge on the subject. I ought not to omit to state that so soon as I found the position in which I was thus placed I tendered the resignation of my sacred office, that I might bear my burden and trial without inconvenience to the Diocese, but my offer was declined in a manner which satisfied me that it was my duty to continue my Episcopal administration.

It will be seen from the above statement that our official position by forcing a charitable trust upon us, has involved us in a complication from which it was quite impossible for us by any act of ours to deliver ourselves. We have given up all and more than we possessed to satisfy the liabilities in which we have so innocently become entangled, and nothing remains for us now but to pass through the Insolvent Courts before this process can terminate. The consolation which supports me in the midst of this trial is the assurance which I receive on all sides, both from friends and strangers, in confirmation of my own convictions, that there is nothing in these transactions which can justly be turned to discredit the Episcopal character as represented in my person.

The main result, as far as the public are concerned, will be to reveal the poverty of a Catholic Bishop. In that poverty I have always lived, nor would I exchange it for all the wealth this world could give me.

Wishing you every blessing,

I remain, Rev. and dear Sir,

Your devoted Servant in Christ,

W. B. ULLATHORNE.'

The following Circular on this matter was also sent :—

'Bishop's House, Birmingham.

May 5, 1853.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,

It is with a sense of gratitude to Almighty God that I communicate to you and to your congregation the release of myself and Dr. Moore from prison. On Monday, 2nd of May, motion was made in the Rolls Court for our release and acquittal, and Thursday was appointed for arguing the case. But on the Tuesday the solicitor for the Assignees proposed a meeting.

The case was left in the hands of the Court, and we received an acquittal without costs.

On the recommendation of the Court the sum of £200 which we had previously promised was paid, and on the following day, Wednesday the 4th inst., we obtained our release.

I feel confident it will require no special invitation to induce you and your congregation to join me in thanksgiving to Almighty God, for the blessing we have received in this deliverance.

Praying Almighty God to bless and protect you,

I remain, Rev. and dear Sir,

Your faithful servant in Christ,

W. B. ULLATHORNE.'

LESTER (OR LYSTER) FAMILY.

An old-established Catholic family, inhabiting several villages around here.

In *Three Centuries in North Oxfordshire* we read that Edward Lyster of Charlbury, apothecary, opened a Home in Blandford, Cornbury Park, in 1779, for receiving patients for treatment after inoculation.

In an *Account of Enstone*, by the Rev. Ed. Marshall, we read (p. 68):—

'In the south aisle were tombstones with small crosses in memory of some members of the families of Lyster and Somerscales, there buried. A slight sketch¹ shows the descent from the Rev. John Rodd, D.D.,

¹ Here omitted.

Rector of Barton-on-the-Heath, Warwick. . . . Near the above Mrs. Lyster was buried a son who lost his life at the storming of Guadaloupe when it was taken by the English in 1815. The Lysters are said to have been of the same family with Lord Ribblesdale.'

Both Nash and Lyster are names of frequent occurrence in the Radford Catholic Register.

PRIESTS AT RADFORD.

1840. The Rev. Michael Gannon entered upon the charge of the Mission with the new church, but left the following year, being succeeded by the Rev. Edward Winter, who left in 1865, retiring to Selly Park Convent, and then to Harbourne, where he died.

He was succeeded by the Rev. William O'Grady, who continued till his death, which took place on Feb. 18, 1888. He is buried in the Chapel burial-ground.

Succeeded immediately by the Rev. Denis Fitzgerald, who left May 7, 1890.

Followed by the Rev. Jonathan Thompson, who left Oct. 17 of the same year.

1890. Oct. 17. The Rev. Philip Sweeney, D.D., from Hethe, whom God prosper.

PART III. SECTION III

HEYTHROP, CHIPPING NORTON

HEYTHROP

ALTHOUGH this place has been 'a name to conjure by' for several generations of Catholics, it is only comparatively of late times that it became the centre of Catholic life, which it continued to be until fifty years ago. The original Oxfordshire house of the Talbots, Earls of Shrewsbury, was at Bampton, to which place we refer our readers. Heythrop was only acquired by the family in the reign of Queen Anne. 'The manor of Heythrop was sold in 1695 by one Mr. Goodyear of this place to one Mr. Milbank of Northamptonshire¹.'

In 1706 it was bought by Charles, twelfth Earl of Shrewsbury, and the only Duke of that title. Early in life he conformed to the Protestant religion through the influence of Tillotson, Archbishop of Canterbury. Among papers calendared in the *7th Report on Historical MSS.*, p. 244 a, upon various subjects of Queen Anne's time, we read the following :—

'This morning Mr. Pope (he is a Papist but I think a candid man) told me that the Duke of Bucks told him several times he thought Tillotson was a Deist because Tillotson said he thought every one should, and he would, conform to the religion of the country he was in. Pope also said that the Duke of Shrewsbury told him he was of the same religion he was at 14 and had never altered. Now he being older than that when Tillotson converted him to the Protestant religion and dying as he did in the same outward profession, Pope believed he was likewise a Deist.'

The Duke spent his life amidst Courts and diplomatic circles, and was entrusted by his Government with the highest diplomatic posts in Italy. It was there he married the daughter of the Marquis Paleotti, of Bologna, who gave up her faith upon her marriage. This arrangement was announced by the Duke to his cousin, the Bishop of Oxford.

¹ *Rawlinson MSS.*, B 400, Bodleian Library.

'*Sep. 29th, 1705.* The Duke of Shrewsbury has written to the Bishop of Oxford that he has married an Italian lady of excellent accomplishments, that she is turned from the Church of Rome, that he is coming with her to England; and he desires his Lordship that when she is here, he would be pleased to give such arguments to her as may settle and fix her in the Protestant religion¹.'

Further on we note the following event:—

'*1717-8. March 19 (Wed.).* On Monday last, about 7 o'clock in the morning, the Marquis of Paleotti, Brother-in-law to the late Duke of Shrewsbury, was hanged at Tyburn for Murder, in the 38th year of his Age. He had committed about 14 or 15 Murders and was a most wretched Villain².'

After his marriage the Duke seems to have passed a considerable time at Heythrop. In 1712 he made his will, and by it he confirmed to his heirs all the bequests made to them by an indenture drawn up in 1700, which provided that the estates should continue with the title, and also settled his newly-purchased property in Oxfordshire—consisting of the manors of Dunthorpe and Showell and of property lying in the parishes of Heythrop, Swarford, Great Tew, and Little Tew, with the lease of Broadstone Farm, which he purchased from Brasenose College, Oxford—upon the same heirs.

They were the sons of his uncle, Gilbert Talbot of Batchcoat, Worcestershire, and to them and their descendants the estates passed without power of alienation, but with power of leasing, excepting only the 'capital Mansion and Park of Heythrop.' The Duke died at Isleworth on or about Feb. 1, 1717, without issue.

'The Rectory of Heythrop near Gt. Tewe becoming vacant by the death of the Incumbent, the University of Oxford claiming a Title to the Presentation by virtue of Act of Parliament: by reason of the person's to whom it otherwise belonged, being thought, tho' not convict, of being a Roman Catholic, a Convocation was held to dispose of it. Trouble was likely to arise from a candidate being put into the living without the privity of this Roman Catholic gentleman until he should be fully proved to be such; suspicion was in some measure grounded upon his being abroad for some years³.'

Who was this gentleman?

¹ See Hearne's *Diaries*, O.H.S., vol. i, p. 50.

² u.s., vol. vi, p. 156.

³ u.s., vol. iii, p. 5. The purchase

of the Heythrop property did not apparently include the advowson of the Rectory.

The Goodyeaes were probably Catholics. The Duke of Shrewsbury left a legacy to Mr. Charles Goodyeaer, whom he calls his 'servant.' He was his man of business, and held a good place as Sergeant of the Mace.

The two sons of Gilbert Talbot, of Batchcoat, were Gilbert, who was a Jesuit priest, and George. The elder, precluded from marriage, persuaded his brother to marry (in 1718) Mary, the daughter of Earl FitzWilliam, and settled him in the estates. George died in 1733, ten years before his reverend brother, who survived until 1743, when his nephew George succeeded to the title and estates as fourteenth Earl. His widow, Mary FitzWilliam, died in 1752, and was buried at Heythrop¹. Two of the brothers of the fourteenth Earl, Dr. James and Dr. Thomas Talbot, were Vicars Apostolic, and from various entries in the Catholic Register they seem to have been frequent visitors at Heythrop. George, the fourteenth Earl, died at Heythrop on 12th June, 1787, without issue, and once more the succession fell to a nephew, Charles, the fifteenth Earl, who also died without children, in London on 6th April, 1827, and was buried at Heythrop. John, his nephew, became sixteenth Earl; the family had long left Heythrop, and had gone to live at Alton Towers, in Staffordshire. Earl John died without a living son, at Naples, in 1852, and his cousin, Bertram Arthur, became seventeenth and last Catholic Earl of Shrewsbury.

It will be interesting to read this account of Heythrop in 1778:—

'From Ditchley to Heythrop is not more than an hour's drive, Lord Shrewsbury's place, well worth seeing indeed, tho' the country is bad. You enter a hall, which appears infinitely larger by three arches fronting you. The middle one only is an arch, the other two are windows of plate-glass which reflect the great avenue of Clumps (the first of the kind in England) by which you approach the house. The deception is strikingly pretty. There has been within these few years two rooms here fitted up at vast expense, one of them the most noble library, eighty-three feet long, twenty feet high, the colour green, very fine stucco ornaments by the famous Roberts of Oxford. There are nine venetian windows, two fine statuary marble chimney-pieces. In the arches over the doorway are fables of Æsop's finely executed in stucco, with wreathes of vine-leaves, the ground round them Astor's colour—the sofas, chairs and curtains fine chintz, a present of the late Lord Clive, a bed and furniture of the same above stairs. The other room is the drawing-room, which Sir James Dashwood informed us Lady Shrewsbury had often told him the furnishing

¹ Collins's *Peerage*.

of that only cost £6000—the two sofas ninety guineas each, each chair thirty. They are of tent stitch-work from Paris, the carved frames made there and gilt in England. The grate, polished steel, cost £95; the statuary marble chimney-piece £15,000. This room is 47 feet by 25 and 20 high. It's hung with Brussels tapestry, representing the four quarters of the world. Four fine drawings in chiaro-obscura over each door are most striking, done by Garrety of Antwerp¹.

The architect of Heythrop was Thomas Archer, son of Thomas Archer, M.P. for Warwick. It was his first work, 1705.

'An Act for vesting part of the settled Estates of the Rt. Honble. John Earl of Shrewsbury, in the counties of Oxford, etc. in Trustees, to be sold and for laying out the monies to arise by such sale in the purchase of other lands, etc.

Royal Assent, 22 August, 1843.

Estates to be sold.

Oxon. Parishes of Heythrop, Swerford, South Newington, Church Enstone, Great Tewe, Little Tewe, Chipping-Norton and Over-Norton, or some or one of them.

	a.	r.	p.
The Manors or Lordships of Dunthrop, Showell and Heythrop, the stables of the late Mansion of Heythrop and the dog-kennels and other out-buildings; the site of the Mansion, the park, lands, woods and premises, now in hand, containing	455	2	12
The garden, garden-house and lands in the occupation of John Kench, tenant 5 acres	5	0	0
Cold Harbour Farm, in the occupation of Richard Badger	416	1	1
Walk Farm, in occupation of George Boulter	235	0	11
The Meadows, in occupation of Mary Gardner	25	0	23
The lands in Enstone Common Field, purchased by the Trustees under the Act of 43 George III, in the occupation of William Goodrich	75	0	0
Dunthrop Farm, held on a lease of Fourteen years by Thomas Hughes	366	0	21
Old Heythrop Farm, in the occupation of John Harris	324	3	18
Castle Farm, in occupation of Thos. Harwood	244	3	17
Showell Farm, held on a lease of fourteen years, by Thomas Owen	356	2	5

Diaries of Mrs. Philip Lybbe Powys. Longmans, Green & Co., 1899.

	a.	r.	p.
The house and meadow in the town of Church Enstone, in the occupation of Mary Pool, purchased by the said Trustees, above	5	0	0
The close of land at South Newington, in the occupation of John Lowt	0	2	0
Several cottages in Heythrop and Dunthrop	2	2	10
The house, and garden, church, churchyard, and premises in Heythrop Park, occupied by the Rev. Peter Heffernan	1	0	10

The perpetual advowson of the Rectory of Heythrop.

The Manor or reputed manor of South Newington with its quit-rents, Dover-rents, rights, royalties and appurtenances.

Yearly rent of above excluding the site and park etc. of late Mansion, £2,600 or thereabouts.'

This Act was not carried out at the time mentioned¹.

Charles, the fifteenth Earl, did not live at Heythrop during the latter part of his life. The house was let about the year 1820 to the Duke of Beaufort.

It is a curious coincidence that the house should have been burnt down during the first lease, seeing that a proviso was made in the will of the Duke of Shrewsbury in 1700 forbidding the lease of the 'Capital Mansion and Park of Heythrop.'

The *Oxford Herald* (Feb. 24, 1831) gives us the account of the accident.

'Heythrop House was burnt during the absence of the Duke of Beaufort and while preparing for his coming home. The chapel alone, with some offices adjoining, was spared.'

In a lately published volume the story of the burning of Heythrop House runs thus:—

'Amongst the servants of the family there existed a tradition that certain rooms were haunted and not to be visited after dark, so consequently the maids purposely avoided looking into those rooms in their evening rounds after lighting the fires preparatory to their master's return, and it was in one of these that the fire originated².'

A view of the house is to be found in Neale's *Seats*³, where it

¹ See *Evidences before Parliament: House of Lords*, 1857—from which all the particulars as to the family and estates are taken.

² *Three Centuries in N. Oxfordshire*, p. 157.

³ Vol. v, 1822.

is said that 'at that time it was the residence of the Duke of Beaufort, and also that the new Gothic Church in the Park was a-building.'

John, the sixteenth Earl, died in 1852, leaving his young cousin Earl Bertram, who in April, 1856, executed a deed seeking to alter the entail of the estates. Upon his death the same year the end of the Catholic rule at Heythrop was drawing near. Earl Bertram had bequeathed part of his estates in trust to Lord Edmund Howard (who assumed the name of Talbot), and this right of bequest, as well as the succession to the earldom, became the subjects of two long and protracted struggles.

An unsigned paper at Radford is probably a copy of the account sent up to the Trustees by Mr. Heffernan of the affairs of the Mission.

'Heythrop, Sept. 4, 1856.

VERY REV. AND DEAR SIR,

At your request I send you an account of the expence of the Heythrop Mission.

	£	s.	d.
Self	115	0	0
School	25	15	0
For the Poor	10	10	0
Oxford Infirmary . .	5	5	0
Swerford Clothing Club .	5	5	0
	161	15	0

No doubt you have heard of the now well known intention of Lord Talbot to take if he can the management of the Estates from the Executors and place it in other hands. Wm. Blount is very likely for his own interest to be at the bottom of this manœuvre.'

In June, 1857, the great Shrewsbury Case was opened before the House of Lords, and occupied their attention until July, 1858, when it was declared, to the satisfaction of the Crown, that Earl Talbot of Ingestre had made out his claim to be Earl of Shrewsbury. Immediately the question arose as to the right of Earl Bertram to leave certain estates to another by will, and upon this question the case was carried to Chancery in 1861.

THE CHAPEL AT HEYTHROP.

It may be taken for granted that as soon as the Duke of Shrewsbury died in 1717 his successor would establish a chapel and chaplain in his house. In 1739 Father Thomas Phillips became chaplain

to the thirteenth Earl, and remained at Heythrop until 1753, when he removed to Sir Richard Acton's place in Shropshire, and in 1763 he went to Mr. Berkeley at Spetchley¹. Being an Oxfordshire man we shall meet with his family further on in our History.

From the year 1753 the register is extant containing the names of the successive chaplains. In 1791, upon the passing of the Act enabling Catholics to have public chapels under certain restrictions, a licence was taken out.

'At the General Quarter Sessions at Oxford, Jan. 1791-2, 32nd year of George III, before Xtph Willoughby and John Weyland, Esqre, etc., for A Chappel situate in the parish of Heythrop in the co. of Oxford in the possession of the right honble Charles Earl of Shrewsbury recorded as a place for the religious worship of Roman Catholics the same having been now certified under the hand of Charles Leslie, Priest, as the Act of Parliament requires. So it is.

(Signed) Taunton, Clerk of the Peace for the said County.'

This chapel adjoined the house, and it appears to have been still standing after the house was burnt in 1831. The originals of the two licences for chapels at Heythrop are among the Radford papers, and so also is the old Heythrop Register.

PRIESTS AT HEYTHROP.

The following facts are mainly drawn from notes in an old register belonging to Heythrop, now kept at Radford.

From 1753 to the end of 1761, all the entries in the register were written and signed by the Rev. Richard Kendal; after an absence of about three years, he appears to have returned in August, 1766, and he remained until April, 1768. The Rev. R. Kendal was brother to the Rev. Hugh Kendal, President of Sedgely Park; he was appointed in 1752 first master of the school at Standon-Lordship, Herts., to which place he had removed from Twyford. In 1771 he became Dean of the Chapter, and died in London, Dec. 10, 1780, aged 71².

In the interim above mentioned the Rev. Pierce Parry was at Heythrop; his name occurs in 1763, and he kept a register book, which was lost, as certified in 1834 by Mr. Heffernan. He was at Oscott about the year 1778, and he built the chapel there³.

¹ See *Gillow's Dictionary*.

³ See *Gillow's Dictionary*, vol. i,

² *Ib.*, and Husenbeth's *Sedgely Park*, p. 311.

In October, 1768, Mr. Thomas Whittingham came, and remained until September, 1782. The *Catholic Directory* tells us that 'the Rev. Thomas Wittingham died at Heythrop, Oxon., Feb. 16, 1783, aged 76.'

After September, 1782, there are no entries for a whole year, after which, in September, 1783, the Rev. Robert Smelt came, and remained until May, 1788. In 1798 he was in Rome, where he acted as Agent to the Vicars-General, and he died there on the 24th of August, 1813, aged 67¹.

One entry occurs in 1789 by J. Gregg in February, and in September the same year Mr. Samuel Rock begins and continues until October, 1790. Mr. Rock had just arrived at Kiddington, where he continued until his death, so for this year there can have been no chaplain at Heythrop. Bishop James Talbot seems to have spent some of his time at his father's house, and his signature occurs to the christening of a child named Mary Such in August, 1785. The same baptism is also entered in its proper place by the chaplain, R. Smelt.

In March, 1791, the Rev. Anthony Clough begins, and continues until August, 1792. He went to Oscott in May, 1793, and there died on September 7th in the same year².

No more entries occur until January, 1795, when the name of the Rev. James Taylor occurs, and continues until July of the same year. A short interregnum now took place, which we are only able to fill up from the *Benedictine Necrology*:—

'At Heythrop, 1794 to 1796, Dom Cuthbert Joseph Wilkes. Professed at St. Edmund's, Paris, now Douai, 1764, of Coughton, Warwickshire, moved to Newport, Salop.'

The following account will show why his name was not to be found in the register. In 1791 he was suspended from his faculties for joining in disparaging remarks upon his Bishop during the warm controversy of the day between the lay Catholics and the Bishops. Some Catholic gentlemen, with Mr. Francis Eyre, of Warkworth, tried their intervention, but with no great success. In May, 1792, he went abroad with Sir John Throckmorton. It must have been upon his return to England that he became a resident at Heythrop as a visitor, the nature of the circumstances precluding him from performing any missionary

¹ *Catholic Directory*.

² See *Gillov*, under Bromwich, and *Catholic Directory*.

duty. He eventually became reconciled with his superiors, and died at the Benedictine Monastery at Douay, May 19, 1829¹.

The next chaplain is the Rev. Gaspar Bricknell, who signs the book from December, 1795, until June, 1797.

'Gaspar Bricknell came to Sedgeley Park 30th June, 1777; he was many years Missioner at Yoxhall (he was there in 1803), and died May 6, 1833, aged 64².'

From this it appears that he was at Heythrop between the time of his being at Sedgeley and going to Yoxall.

The Rev. Francis Bishop, probably of Brailes, succeeded to Heythrop in April, 1798, and continued until his death. The register closes in September, 1821.

The following entertaining anecdote is told of Mr. Bishop in Husenbeth's *Life of Bishop Milner* :—

'At the first meeting of the clergy at the Bishop's House at Wolverhampton after dinner several songs were sung, particularly a favourite German song, by the Rev. Francis Bishop, of Heythrop. He had sung this at the Clergy meeting for several years, and as from his great age he was not likely to survive long Mr. Husenbeth was desired to pay attention to the song and learn it, that it might be preserved. He did so, and learned it so completely that he was able to sing it the following day for Dr. Milner, with whom he dined at Oscott. The Bishop remarked to him, "I cannot understand, Sir, how you could learn that song so well by only once hearing it; why I have heard it over and over again and don't know a word of it".'

The Bishop was notoriously wanting in the musical faculty. Mr. Bishop did not live to sing it again; he died 26th November, 1821.

After the death of the Rev. Francis Bishop we find the name of one mentioned as chaplain who lived long among the people, and to whose energy we owe the completion of the second chapel or church at Heythrop and the present church of Chipping Norton. The first signature of his name in the Burial Register is in November, 1824. The Rev. Patrick Heffernan was born of a good lineage in Ireland, and was an alumnus of Maynooth, where he held the 'bourse' of Dumboyne Scholar.

It would seem that Lord Shrewsbury had begun to build a church before 1822 in the park, and which was so long in erection that the scaffold-poles became rotten. Mr. Heffernan, with the characteristic

¹ See Oliver's *Collections*, p. 437.

² *History of Sedgeley*, u. s., p. 28.

energy of his age and race, urged on his patron to the completion of the building, and in 1826 he obtained a licence to open the new 'chapel in which he intends to officiate by holding religious services therein'.¹

The architect is forgotten, unless it were the energetic chaplain himself, but the beauty and correctness of the work and style became a topic of conversation to every one who had seen it and remembered the debased state of public architectural taste at the time. There is a striking similarity, however, between the existing views of Heythrop Church and the one at Banbury, perhaps pointing to the same hand. In later days, when the property had passed from Catholic hands, the church was taken down by the new owner, Mr. Brassey, and the component parts scattered; the clock was put into the tower of Banbury Church, the altar and reredos taken to Chipping Norton, but the tower was rebuilt stone by stone into the new church at Heythrop, erected in 1879-80, the old work being considered equal to any that could have been designed at the present day. Our old antiquarian friend, Mr. W. Wing, tells us that, 'The reredos is a beautiful piece of delicate sculpture. It was placed so that a place was left behind it to serve as a vestry.' The stone had all been quarried upon the spot.

The burial-ground around the church was in use before the church was finished, and continued to be used until 1860. The founder, Charles Lord Shrewsbury, only survived the opening of the church half a year; he died in London, and Mr. Heffernan received the following announcement:—

'63 Norton Street, 6 April, 1827. Dear Sir, I have the duty to announce to you the death of Lord Shrewsbury which took place this morning at 4 o'clock. He will be buried at Heythrop. You are entitled by his will to a legacy of £100.

Yours, etc., WM. BLOUNT¹.

To Revd. P. Heffernan.'

Accordingly the body was brought down to Heythrop and buried in the nave of the church upon the 20th of April. With this funeral closes the personal connexion of the family with Heythrop, although the property remained in their possession for some years longer.

The usual work of the Mission went on, Mr. Heffernan making himself friends among all his neighbours, and assisting at Radford

¹ The original at Radford, signed the fifteenth day of October, 1826, Patrick

Heffernan, and certified by John Marriott Davenport, Clerk of the Peace.

when occasion required. He saw the church at Chipping Norton opened, and at the beginning said Mass there every fortnight, alternating with his own place. He made his church a rallying-place for the villages, and in 1846, upon the 29th of May, he preached a sermon in his church 'to the Enstone Club at the request of its members. About 200 were present, for the greater part Protestants¹.'

The Rev. Patrick Heffernan did not live to see the end of the great Shrewsbury Case; he died at Heythrop on Feb. 12, 1858, aged 65. He was buried in his church, but when that was abandoned his body, with that of Earl Charles, was removed to the new chapel at Chipping Norton.

OLD HEYTHROP.

The title of 'Old Heythrop' having fallen entirely into disuse, it is useful here to record what it represented formerly. Miss Stanbridge, of London Road, Chipping Norton, in a letter upon the subject, fully identifies its situation. She says:—

'The house that was occupied by Mr. Harris in 1843 was the same in which my father lived when at Heythrop; it is now taken down, every stone of it, and the site where it stood is added to the lawn of the Parsonage, which is built further back than the old house stood. It was the old mansion before the one in which Mr. Brassey now lives was originally built. There was an old tithe-barn at the farm now occupied by Mr. Gregory. —*Jan. 18, 1899.*'

Confirmation had been given during the course of years at Heythrop in 1753, 1758, 1774, 1778, 1782, 1788, 1806².

The Rev. P. Heffernan lived in this house many years; it was at one time the dwelling of Bishop Stonor after he left Watlington Park.

ENSTONE

In the year 1780, famous for the Gordon Riots, a bill was before Parliament for the relief of Roman Catholics. The parish account books of the town of Enstone have the following entry:—

1780. 'Paid for an order from the Bishop to give an account of the supposed number of Papists in the Parish of Enstone, which number is given as 53³.'

¹ *Catholic Directory*, 1847.

² *Confirmation Book*.

³ See Jordan's *History of Enstone*, p. 464.

In the *Life of Bishop Milner* a list of Catholic chapels is given for the year 1803. Heythrop is omitted and Enstone substituted, with the Rev. F. Bishop as incumbent, and the Bishop gave Confirmation at Enstone in August, 1819.

Considering that Heythrop was a parish to itself the above notices seem to suggest a separate congregation at Enstone. It is certain that a room at Enstone, in the old Post Office, was used as a chapel; this house is still standing and is in the occupation of the Misses Viner. It appears to have once been known as 'Naboth's Vineyard.' Probably Heythrop House being let to a non-Catholic the tenant might have objected to service being held upon his premises, the chapel was transferred to Enstone while the priest still occupied 'Old' Heythrop. We know that in 1822 the new church was already 'a-building' and it was long in erection.

STANBRIDGE FAMILY.

In this family we may trace one of the mainstays of religion in the west of Oxfordshire during a very great part of the difficult times of the last two centuries. They point to Thomas Stanbridge, the schoolmaster of Banbury in the early part of the sixteenth century, for their ancestry. However that may be, they lived for generations as prosperous farmers, and their names are connected with Heythrop, Lydstone, Great Rollright, Great Tew, Farmington, and Little Compton, Gloucestershire, in which latter place they dwelt in the old Manor House, and entertained the priest when he could go over from Heythrop to say Mass. Their registers are kept at Radford, and their dead for many years were buried at Heythrop.

A marriage connects them with the Pendrells of Boscobel.

CHIPPING NORTON

In the year 1827, upon the death of the Earl of Shrewsbury, there was a general feeling among the Catholics of this part of Oxfordshire that the Talbots would fail before many years should pass. Acting upon this impression, the chaplain, Mr. Heffernan, laid his plans, by the aid of Providence, to secure a firmer footing independently of the Shrewsbury family. He had a staunch friend in the person of Miss Bowdon of Radford, who devoted the greater portion of her

fortune to the service of God in the endowment of struggling missions, at this crisis in so great peril of extinction through the default of their old Catholic patrons. Radford, Chipping Norton, and Tamworth shared her benefactions. Mr. Heffernan inspired his people with the prospect of the new foundation, and going among the school children would clap his hands and say, 'We're going to Chipping Norton, children; we're going to Chipping Norton!'

A site was bought on 'Rock Hill,' overlooking the little old market-town, chosen by him. Here he laid the foundation-stone of the new chapel; taking advantage of the ancient manorial rights, still in force, the stone and timber given by the Earl, all from Heythrop Park, were hauled by the Heythrop tenants. The new church was at length opened on the 25th October, 1836, under the invocation of the Holy Trinity, by Cardinal (then Bishop) Wiseman, and the sermon was preached by Dr. Tandy of Banbury. Miss Bowdon gave £4,000.

When the church was begun there were no Catholics in the town, but confidence in Providence has produced the usual results, and a congregation grew up so quickly that in August, 1845, fifty-two persons were ready to receive Confirmation from the hands of the same Bishop Wiseman, fifty of whom were recent converts. School and Presbytery are attached to the church. Upon the demolition of the old Catholic church at Heythrop the reredos and the altar were brought here, and now are used for the Lady Chapel. The bodies which lay in the church were removed to Chipping Norton, viz. Lord Shrewsbury and the Rev. Patrick Heffernan; they repose in a vault close to the wall of the church; the stone formerly over the grave of the Rev. P. Heffernan is in the churchyard. For a time Mass was said on alternate Sundays here and at Heythrop, until the Rev. J. Mitchell was appointed to the place in 1837.

In the years 1849 and 1853 two deeds was executed by the Turville family, as heirs to the Loggans of Idbury, endowing the Mission of Chipping Norton with £9 per annum. Hence this place may be called the child and heir to the two older Missions of Heythrop and Idbury.

PRIESTS AT CHIPPING NORTON.

1836. The Rev. P. Heffernan, the founder.

1837. The Rev. John Mitchell. After the actual founder of the Church, the congregation of Chipping Norton owes its existence and

well-being to the Very Rev. Canon Mitchell. For sixteen years he laboured, body and soul, in their midst to promote the welfare of his own people and to found the new Mission of Fairford upon the wreck of Hatherop, Gloucestershire. He utilized the roomy Presbytery by taking foreign youths as pupils. His straightforward manner in an argument won for him much respect amongst his Anglican neighbours, and it is told that once—after a lengthy and unsatisfactory controversy in *Jackson's Journal*—his opponent came to him appealingly with, 'Let us stop this argument at once; come and lunch with me, and you shall choose any oil-painting you like in my library, only let us stop.' Canon Mitchell accepted the invitation and also the picture, but only upon condition that the painting should be hung over the altar in his church as a testimony that he had not weakly withdrawn from the battle¹. The Canon was not a man given to social intercourse for the pleasure of it, but no one among his flock had ever reason to complain of his want of sympathy and real kindness in their troubles or perplexities.

In the beginning of 1853 he exchanged livings with the Rev. John Fanning, and went to reside at Taunton, being called thither to receive a Canonry in the Diocese of Clifton. Henceforth he acted as chaplain to the Franciscan nuns, and died at Taunton, where he was buried in October, 1899, in the ninetieth year of his age.

1853. The Rev. John Fanning came here in January and left for Wolverhampton in June².

The Rev. John Abbot succeeded him and grew old in the Mission. Being of a saving turn of mind, he accumulated the funds and interest coming to him, somewhat to the detriment of his church and house, which suffered considerable dilapidation in consequence. The money he had saved he left to the Bishop of his Diocese. He died in Birmingham some time after the resignation of his Mission, and his funeral was actually proceeding when it was delayed by the arrival of the Rev. S. Sole, his successor at Chipping Norton, who begged the body from the Bishop and conveyed it back to be buried among his old flock. There is no monument to his memory.

1879. In October the Rev. Samuel Sole was appointed Missionary Rector. In 1881 he saw his opportunity of buying a plot of ground

¹ The opponent was Rector of Kid-dington. Canon Mitchell took the picture away with him to Taunton.

² See his life in Oliver's *Collections*, p. 299.

at Chadlington. This had been sold by the Countess Ducie and bought by a blacksmith. Mr. Sole gave him £10 for his bargain and put up a sufficient building for his purpose. Mass is said there on the first Sunday of the month and R. and C. on the third Sunday.

In 1903, on the 13th of November, three Sisters of Providence arrived in Chipping Norton. They took a large house in the town and opened a school. Their Institute was expressly for teaching in schools, and has enjoyed a great reputation in France among the advocates of Christian education. The chief house of the Order was at Brioux in Brittany.

PART IV. SECTION I

IDBURY, BRADWELL, HATHEROP, BRIZE NORTON

FAMILIES OF LOGGAN AND DESCENDANTS, TRINDER, WEBB, GREENWOOD

IDBURY

THE village of Idbury stands upon a very high and commanding situation overlooking the counties of Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire. In early times it was a post of much importance, as testified by the extensive camp and by the tradition that a royal mint once existed here.

The first we hear of Idbury after the Middle Ages occurs in the will of Mr. William Fermor of Somerton, dated September, 1552, in which this place is included with several others in the bequest to his wife:—

‘The manor and advowson of Somerton, and lands in frytwell, Dunstew, Steple-Aston, Mydle-Aston, Idburye, Fescote, Bolde, Kingham, Pudlehill¹ and Banbury, co. Oxon, etc. . . . ; to my wife Elizabeth for life.’

This lady was the daughter of Sir William Norreys, of Yattendon, Berks. ; she left no issue, and as we find no further mention of the Fermors in these parts, it is probable that she disposed of the property².

We next find Idbury in possession of a Scotch family named Logan, or, as it appears to have been vernacularly pronounced, ‘Loggin.’ Wood, writing in 1674, says ‘the rectory of Idbury is appropriated to the college of Sarum and leased by them to Mr. Logan,’ and that he, Wood, had this information from Mr. Logan, Lord of the Manor³. At the time the above was written this family had been

¹ In Godington, q. v.

² See the Somerton section in this Work.

³ *Life and Times*, vol. ii, p. 283.

about fifty years in possession, and we may trace them through the Gainsford family to a Wincott, who lived, in 1611, at Fyfield, the neighbouring hamlet.

The accompanying notes will be useful touching the connexion of these Oxfordshire families :—

‘ Henry Rainsford, of Tew Magna, Oxon, eldest son of John of Rainsford Hall, Lancashire, and Elizabeth Fiennes, married Elizabeth Wilcott, heiress to her father. Their son William, of Great Tew, married Agnes, daughter of William Anne, of North-Aston¹, and had three sons. The second son was William, who married — Broke, whose son Charles married Jane Morgan, of Camberton, co. Worcester, and one of their daughters, Elizabeth, married Robert Wincott of Kingham, Oxon.²’

In 1611 we find Morgan and Wincott both mentioned as ‘ suspected,’ as well as the Gainsford family :—

‘ Touching the recusancy of Edward Morgan in the house of Robert Wincott at Fifield, Oxon.³’

‘ Grant of the benefit of the recusancy of Margaret and John Gainsford⁴ of Idbury, Oxon, 1611, to John Gray⁵.’

A monumental slab in Idbury Church gives us the family thus :—

‘ John Logan (vulgo Loggin) Lord of the Manor of this place, was eldest son of Robert Logan of Little Tew, a Scotsman ; he died 16th December, 1637, aged 75. His wife was Frances, granddaughter to Charles Rainsford, by his daughter, the wife of Robert Wincott. Their children were :—

Robert of Idbury, High Sheriff in 1651. Died unmarried in 1654⁶.

Thomas of Little Tew.

Edward and John ; Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Marten [of Rousham].

Maria, wife of Richard Calcot [of Hokenorton].

Catherine, wife of Cadwalderda Coker [of Bicester⁷].

Alice, wife of Richard Crofts [of Sutton under Brailes].

Jane, wife of Robert d'Oyley [of Hambledon].

Frances, wife of William Reynolds [of Cassington].’

The similarity of the names of Rainsford and Gainsford leads to confusion, but they are distinct⁸.

‘ Elizabeth, d. of Will. Logan of Swalecliffe, married Richard Crofts of Sutton, Glost.⁹’

See North Aston.

² From *Topographist and Genealogist*, 1st Series, vol. ii, p. 105.

³ *38th Report of the Deputy-Keeper of Records*, 9 Jas. I, 1611, pp. 585-98.

⁴ For Gainsford, see Davenport's *Lord-Lieutenants of Oxfordshire*, p. 45.

⁵ *Calendar of State Papers Domestic*, 1611, p. 98.

⁶ See Davenport, u. s.

⁷ Wood MS., E 1.

⁸ For Gainsford, see *Three Oxfordshire Parishes*, p. 25.

⁹ *Rawlinson MSS.*, D 807, pp. 16-17.

Elizabeth Logan who was buried in Swalcliffe Church. This is possibly the same as the Alice of the epitaph.

Speaking of Frances, the wife of William Reynolds, Wood says she was the daughter of 'Loggan who bought Idbury of Gainsford, but lived at Swalcliffe¹.'

In an Estreate made at Chipping Norton in 16th Charles I, 1640. we find further mention of the family:—

'Kingham. Thomas Logging, in land.

" John " "

Idbury. Robert " gent. "

Tanynton. John Moore, gent. in goods.

Tangley. John Loggin " "

Minster Lovell. Francis Ewen, gent. in land (and his family).

Chastleton and Brookend. George Greenwood, in land.

Chipping Norton. Anne, wife of Will Carter pr. poll. recusant².'

The above is a list of Recusants in Chadlington Hundred and their assessment, which we have not copied.

1651. 'May 15. Loggins John, of Hampton on the Hill, Warwick, aided the King³.' 'Robert Loggings of Wolverhampton, a Commissioner of Array against Lord Brooke⁴.' 'Mr. Logings helped to conceal the estate of Sheldon of Beoley⁵.'

On the monumental slab cited above is seen the name of John Logan; this carries us on to the next generation, of whom we find nothing beyond this note in Payne's *Non-jurors*, p. 284:—

'Alathea, daughter of John Loggan of Idbury, co. Oxon, married Charles Cottington of Fonthil-Giffard, co. Wilts, and was buried there in 1687. Her son Francis Cottington was created a peer by the "Pretender" by the title of Baron Cottington; and another of her sons was Edward Cottington, S.J., who tells us the further piece of family news⁶. His uncle Logan was formerly a Catholic, and his uncle's wife, a son and three daughters, still continue so.'

Later on we find Elizabeth Loggin, probably one of the above three daughters, married to Charles Fortescue, of Husbands Bosworth, in Leicestershire, and she left two children. Mr. Fortescue died in 1732, and in his will mentions his nephews and niece, Francis, Thomas, and Elizabeth Turville, and cousin Valentine House.

¹ *Life and Times*, vol. i, p. 305.

² This is printed in *Three Centuries in North Oxfordshire*, by Mrs. Sturge Henderson. Also noticed in Jordan's *History of Enstone*.

³ *Committee for Advance of Money*, p. 1341.

⁴ *Ib.*, p. 1423.

⁵ *Ib.*, p. 871.

⁶ See Foley's *Records*, vol. iv, p. 408.

The name of Mrs. Loggin, widow, is returned in 1706 as follows:—

‘Edward Logging Griffin, Curate, presents that Madame Logging, widow, has an estate in the parish of Idbury, valued at £105 per annum. She is a reputed papist but lives in London. Charles Fortescue, Esq., is a reputed papist, has an estate in the parish of Idbury of the value of £92 15s. *od.* per annum. He lives in Leicestershire. He has the Impropriation of the said parish and nominates and pays the curate¹.’

Madame Loggan must have died soon after this, as in 1715 we find Mr. Fortescue in possession of the whole estate:—

‘Charles Fortescue of Husband’s Bosworth, co. Lei., Esq. Fee simple estate at Idbury, £377 8s. 5d.²’

Mr. Fortescue died in 1732 and was buried at Idbury. His widow survived him; her will is dated 7th August, 1735.

‘Elizabeth Fortescue, widow relict of Charles Fortescue of Husband’s Bosworth, co. Lei., desires to her son Francis Fortescue the moiety of the Manor of Idbury, Bold and Foscott. To the Poor of Idbury, £7³.’

Her son and daughter both dying without issue, Idbury with the Leicestershire estates went to their cousin Turville⁴.

The names of a few Catholic tenants have been preserved to us by the Stonyhurst and Cosin’s MSS., viz. Anne Digger, and one of the name of Cassey, John Grey, and Anne Day with her two sons, James and Richard. Mr. Stanbridge was agent to Mr. Fortescue at Idbury, but he did not live there. The house stands in the middle of the village, flush with the road in front but enjoying an extensive view at the back. The chapel, as usual, was a large attic with a smaller room besides, and in the smaller room is a square grate, opening with a shutter, possibly for the confessional. This chapel was used as late as Mr. Rock’s time, who seems to have said Mass there, from Radford.

The priest at Chipping Norton is allowed the sum of £9 per annum by the Turville family, and thus all remains of active Catholicity has died out in this parish. In the parish churchyard is the tomb of a Catholic lady who was brought from the north to be buried there:—

‘Mary, the beloved wife of John Fleming, who died at Elton near Bury, Lancashire, 9th Oct. 1863, aged 47.’

¹ See *Stonyhurst MS.*

iv, p. 186.

² See Cosin’s *List*.

⁴ Burke’s *Landed Gentry*, vol. ii,

³ 10th *Report Historical MSS.*, App.

p. 647.

HOLWELL, WESTWELL, AND BRADWELL

A few miles south of Idbury lie these three villages upon the borders of Gloucestershire. They are all three closely connected with the same families.

The congregations once frequenting the chapels must now be sought in Gloucestershire.

 THOMPSON.

The short record we have of this family is so typical of what Recusants underwent during the fiery times of James I that we introduce it here, although the date carries us further back than our intention warrants.

Speaking of the martyrdom at Gloucester of the Rev. Stephen Rousham, who had been Vicar of St. Mary the Virgin in Oxford, the narrative proceeds:—

‘The morning he was martyred he offered the divine sacrifice of the Masse and there were with him at it Mr. Thompson (alias Groves) and many more Catholics. . . . And because by occasion I have mentioned Mr. Thompson, I will here set down what little I remember of him. He was a gentleman of fair lyving in Oxfordshire, not far from Burforde, a widower and a father to many young children, yet he lyved Catholicly at his own house and ever kept one priest at least, besides entertainment he gave to strangers. In the ende heat of persecution drove him into the Forest of Deane, in the co. of Gloster where he lyved some years in that vast wilderness in a poor house he hyred, under the name of Mr. Groves, with his priest as before. At last he was found out by pursuivants, Robert Aufield and others, and committed to Gloucester Castle, where he endured many outrages of the officers of that country. He was many times searched and spoyled of all he had; but yet he endured and brought up his children as he might; albeit a certain lawyer of Oxfordshire was by favour of wicked laws crept into his estate, and afforded him very small relief therefrom. At last he died prisoner there in Gloucester¹.’

‘John Thompson, a Recusant at Broadwell, Oxon.²’

One son of this Confessor of the Faith reports himself as follows:—

‘Father Francis Thompson alias Yates, born 1577. My real name is Francis Thompson. During my childhood I lived with my father in the co.

¹ From Oliver's *Collections*, p. 102.

² From *Exchequer Records*, Jas. I.

of Oxford, who caused me to be instructed in my rudiments at home by a certain priest, until both he and the priest were cast into prison. I was only twelve and spent three or four years at various schools; I was always a Catholic. My parents were of the higher class and always Catholic. My mother died when I was in the cradle; my father died after seven years imprisonment for the faith. I have three brothers and six sisters, one of whom is a nun at Bruxelles.'

Foley further says of Father F. Thompson:—

'He was son of John Thompson of Broadwell; made his studies at St. Omer. Entered in 1600 the English College, Rome; ordained 1603, became a Jesuit 1606. Three years after his noviciate, was sent to England. Once Chaplain to Honble. Andrew Windsor, a younger son of Lord Windsor. Died in Wiltshire, 1614, aged 36. In a part of the country where the Society was scarcely known he had prepared the way for four or five Missioners. He suffered much from ill health, and hastened his death by his corporal austerities for the repose of the soul of his sister, the Benedictine nun at Brussels. He may be the Father Thompson who was a benefactor to those nuns¹.

'Amongst the ladies who were clothed in the first batch of novices under Lady Mary Percy, was Margaret Thompson of Bradwell, Oxon, 21 Nov. 1599. She was sister to "Father Yates." She was elected Prioress in 1600 and died, aged 38, in 1613².

'Jane Thompson, another sister, married Mr. Ambrose Griffiths of Gloucestershire³.

'James Griffiths, son of Ambrose Griffiths and Jane Thompson. Parents well born. My uncle John Thompson is wealthy and a Schismatic and his brother Francis a Jesuit,—he has four sisters, Griffiths, all Catholics³.

Foley also mentions a Father Thompson, *alias* Throgmorton, possibly one of this family:—

'Born in Kent, 1614. In the year 1666 he was on the Oxfordshire Mission and again in 1675. He was a celebrated preacher, went to Liège upon the outbreak of the "Plot," and when James Duke of York was at Brussels he appointed Father Thompson to preach before him. He died at Dunkirk on his way back to England 1680, aged 66³.

We lose sight of the Thompsons, and next find Broadwell or Bradwell in the hands of the Trinders, who enjoyed a neighbouring estate.

¹ Vols. iv and vii.

² *Annals of Benedictines of Brussels*, pub. at Bergholt, 1898; and Weldon's

Notes, App., p. 33.

³ Foley, vols. iv, vi, and vii.

TRINDER OF WESTWELL, BRADWELL, HOLWELL, OXON., AND OF
BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

The first notice we find of this family is the epitaph to Charles Trinder in the church of Westwell—a large mural monument:—

‘To Charles Trinder of Holwell, gent., who died 13th March, 1657, in the 62nd year of his age. He had issue by Jane his only wife, daughter of Henry Heylyn of Burford, gent, 6 sons and 8 daughters¹’

The eldest son, Charles, was a well-known lawyer of his day; we find him in the returns to the House of Lords with other Catholic lawyers:—

‘Certificate of Treasurer and two other members of Lyon’s Inn, that Charles Trinder, gent., a member of the Inn, is a reputed Papist, and that there is no other member of the Inn who is either a Papist or reputed Papist or an Irishman. *April, 1679*²’

He is mentioned in Oliver’s *Collections* (p. 127) as a Catholic, Serjeant-at-law, and Recorder of Gloucester, and as keeping up a chapel at Bourton-on-the-Water, from which all the neighbouring villages had been served.

Would it be fair to infer that Trinder was the ‘certain lawyer of Oxfordshire’ who crept into the estate of John Thompson, as mentioned above?

‘Charles Trinder of Hollwell in the parish of Bradwell, Attorney-at-law and Anne his wife. His estate in Hollwell £220 per annum; another estate in Bourton-on-the-Water, co. Glos., £150 per annum and upwards³’

‘Charles Trinder, of Bradwell, Esq., the Manor of Holwell there formerly the property of Charles and Jane Trinder, his father and mother. Henry Trinder, his brother, Serjeant at law, was formerly interested in some lands, and in 1690 granted a lease to Sir William Hill, Knt., and Mrs. Jane Jordan, his sister (since deceased) subject to a proviso for redemption in case he should pay to Mrs. Anne Brooks, also his sister, the yearly sum of £10 os. od.⁴’

The will of Charles Trinder was dated June 2nd, 1718; he mentions his first wife, Anne Greenwood of Brize Norton, with whom he desires burial in Brize Norton Church, his second wife Teresa, his two sisters as above, and grandsons Bodenham and Wright, and another brother John⁵. Of John Trinder we find that he had been

¹ Skelton’s *Oxfordshire*; also *Rawlinson MSS.*, B 400, b.

² *11th Report Hist. MSS.*, App. ii, p. 103.

³ In *Stonyhurst MS.*, 1706.

⁴ Cosin’s *List*, 1715.

⁵ See Payne’s *Non-Jurors*, p. 71.

to the wars in Ireland, and in July, 1689, his name appears with Francis Plowden and others, as having been attainted in Ireland ¹.

Here is the account of some of our Oxfordshire friends:—‘Persons attainted, serving in Ireland’—before the House of Lords. Two witnesses were required in each instance to testify that the accused had been in any employment in Ireland.

‘Witnesses knew Francis Plowden had a Commission for a Troop of horse; heard he was Chairman to the Commissioners.

Knew John Trinder and saw him about 1 April, he acted as a Commissioner.

Colonel Dominick Sheldon was Colonel of Horse, witness knew him to be in command.

Sentence was passed that all possessions or employments belonging to the above persons upon the day of the landing of King James in Ireland, should be confiscated from the 24th day of October, 1689 ².

‘Nov. 18, 1689. Warrant for apprehending John Trinder and other disaffected persons who lie concealed within the city and liberties of Westminster ³.’

Administration of the estate of John Trinder, of Westwell, co. Oxon., brother to Charles, was granted, Sept. 3, 1719, to Anne his widow ⁴.

From the following notice it would appear that there was some marriage connexion between John Trinder and John Logan of Idbury:—

1682. ‘Whitaker v. Pawlin. Whitaker Petitioner, John Loggin had money in trust for him which he invested in business and failed. Bankrupt, mentions his uncle John Trinder ⁵.’

Teresa, widow of Charles Trinder, leaves to her sister Mrs. Mary Tuke, a ring; Mr. Bennett Rigmaiden executor. She is here described as ‘late of Ligny in the Duchy of Lorraine and Bar. Will dated 15 July, 1736—8th Oct. 1743 ⁶.’

She was the second daughter of Sir Samuel Tuke; her mother was Mary, daughter of Edward Sheldon of Ditchford, sister to Colonel

¹ Wood, *Life and Times*, vol. iii, p. 306.

² 12th Report Hist. MSS., App. vi, pp. 228 and 236.

³ State Papers Domestic, 1689–90, p. 323.

⁴ Payne’s Records, p. 50.

⁵ 13th Report Hist. MSS., App. v,

p. 260. Plot in his *Natural History*, p. 157 (A.D. 1677), says that ‘Mr. Trinder, an ingenious gentleman of Westwell, was known for his Malt-Kilns, and he showed Plot one of his at Holwell.’

⁶ Payne, u. s., p. 19.

Dominick Sheldon, married Sir Samuel Tuke of Cressing, Essex; and in 1679, Mrs. Sheldon, Lady Tuke, Mrs. Perkins and Mrs. Tempest were all implicated in the 'Plot and the last two secured'.

Sir S. Tuke left three children—Sir Charles, the last Baronet, who died from wounds received at the Battle of the Boyne, unmarried; Mary, who died unmarried at Cambrai in 1740; and Teresa, Mrs. Trinder².

At Bradwell, William Cruse, Clerk to Charles Trinder, and Mary his maidservant, are returned as papists³. The Cruses were related to the Daveys of Overy; they were a Wiltshire family.

CLERGY SERVING AS CHAPLAINS TO THE TRINDERS.

In 1687 the school at Bourton was taken charge of by Brother Wilfrid (Richard Reeve), O.S.B.

In 1711 Dom Richard Nelson was chaplain at Bourton. He was born in Lancashire, and died there in 1724; he had been Prior of St. Edmund's in Paris.

Dom Simeon Benedict Rigmaiden, chaplain there before 1744, when he retired into his native county of Lancashire. Died at Dieu-leward in 1749⁴.

HATHEROP

Hatherop Castle, near Fairford, upon the borders of Oxfordshire, although not in our county, claims notice as an ancient centre of Catholicity for its neighbourhood, and from the intercourse which must necessarily have taken place between its owners and the Oxfordshire Catholic gentry.

From early days the Blomer family were seated here, and by a marriage with one of them the family of Bishop, of Brailes, came into the neighbourhood.

The heiress of the Blomers married Sir John Webb of Wiltshire, and their children, by their alliances, introduced much of the old north-country Jacobite blood to Hatherop.

In 1703, when Lady Webb (née Mary Blomer) was a widow,

¹ See *7th Report Hist. MSS.*, p. 477a; and in *12th Report Hist. MSS.*, App. ix, occur notices of Colonel Tuke during the Civil War.

² See *Miscellanea Gen. et Herald.*, by

J. J. Howard, vol. i, New Series, 1874, p. 196.

³ *Stonyhurst MS.*, 1706.

⁴ *Benedictine Necrology.*

a romantic little incident occurred at Hatherop, recorded by Mr. Nicholas Blundell of Crosby, Lancashire, in his Diary—no less an event than his own marriage. He set out from Crosby on the 13th of April and

‘Began my journey towards Hathrop. 17th. I came from North Leech to Hathrop and found the family all there; also my Lord Langdale. 19th. I discoursed Lord Langdale in his chamber and Lady Webb in the dining-room. I made my first address to Mrs. Frances Langdale. 20th. Lady Webb discoursed me in the garden, I discoursed Mrs. Langdale in the kitchen garden. 22nd. Lady Dowager Webb read the heads of an agreement of marriage between Mrs. Frances Langdale and me, Nicholas Blundell, in presence of Lord Langdale and Sir John Webb. 23rd. Mr. Trinder the lawyer came to Hathrop for instructions to draw Articles of Marriage. I presented my diamond ring to Mrs. Langdale. Sir John Waters and his lady, Mr. Sheldon of Weston and his son, etc., dined at Hathrop. 4th May. I sent George Howard, Sir John Curson’s manservant, to Oxford to take a place in the coach for me to London. 5th May. I writ to Water-Perry to Mrs. Frances Langdale and sent it by Oxford post. 13th May. I came from London towards Water Perry with a disputing parson. 15th. I came to Hathrop from Water Perry with Patrick Gillibrand. 17th. I walked with Mrs. F. Langdale to Fairford. Morris dancers came to Hathrop. 19th May. I went in the coach with Lord Gerard and Sir John Webb to see Mr. Greenwood of Bryse-Norton. The Lords and Ladies of May came to dance at Hathrop. I presented my gilt coffee spoons. We danced after the Tabor and Pipes. 31st May. I went a second time to London, lodged at Oxford with Mr. Trinder. I waited on Dr. Bayley of Maudlen. 11th June. I dined with Lady Curson, tried on my wedding suit there and in other places. 15th June. Lord Langdale, Lady Webb, Sir John Webb and I heard all the Deeds read, all we at Hathrop concerned therein subscribed them before four witnesses. 16th June. Lady dowager Webb acquainted me the marriage was to be the day following. 17th June. I was married to Lord Langdale’s daughter by Mr. Slougher a clergyman. 21st. I went with Sir John Webb to Parson Burcher’s and gave him half a guinea as marriage dues. 25th June. My chariot came to Hathrop to carry my wife home to Crosby¹.’

A few years later a daughter of the house married James, third Earl of Derwentwater, who suffered on Tower Hill in 1715 for complicity in the Jacobite rising. It was to her father’s house that the young widow retired with her children, and it was to Hatherop that her friend Father Lane addressed his beautiful letters of sympathy in her deep trouble. She retired to Louvain, and died there at the early age of thirty.

¹ *Diary of N. Blundell.* Liverpool, 1895 ed., by T. E. Gibson.

As the estate came to the Webbs by the heiress of the Blomers, so it passed from them by their heiress marrying the Earl of Shaftesbury, and so eventually it fell to Lord de Mauley.

The chapel remained in Hatherop Castle until the death of Lady de Mauley in 1844, after which the house was closed by her husband to the Catholic religion. For some years Mass was said in the gamekeeper's cottage at Colne Alnwyn, about a mile off, and it is still remembered how one day the good woman of the house had stowed away a covey of young partridges beneath the altar and they made their escape during Mass. Lady de Mauley left about £300 to build a chapel, and her husband added a further sum; and a few years after her death the plot of ground just outside Fairford was bought, and chapel, schools, and presbytery built upon it.

Canon Mitchell, while living at Chipping Norton, undertook the re-establishment of this Mission at Fairford, and superintended the buildings. He served the chapel for several years, riding over once a month to say Mass.

Before the death of Lady de Mauley, i. e. 1st of January, 1839-40, we find these little statistics of the Mission recorded by the Bishop:—

‘Hathrop. Baptisms, 2. Marriages and deaths, 0—0. Communions, 10. Conversions, 0. Census, 36¹.’

The Mortuary Chapel or Chantry in Hatherop Church is full of interest. A most exquisite recumbent figure of Lady de Mauley lies there, sculptured in the purest white marble by an Italian artist; she lies in perfect beauty, dressed in white satin, the texture of which can almost be felt.

The flat gravestones of the Blomers are in the floor, and with them a little brass plate, hardly a foot across:—

To
HENRY TOURVILLE
Generousus, qui
obiit 20 Oct. 1759.
R. I. P.

In the churchyard lies the body of one of the last chaplains, the Rev. Francis Lee, who died in February, 1830². It is said he was for some years in London. His sister lies next to him under a similar tombstone.

The *Catholic Directory*, 1813, has, ‘July 3, Mrs. Dorothy Leigh, at Hatherop.’ This looks as if she were the mother of the preceding.

¹ See Mazière Brady, vol. iii, p. 315.

² See Oliver's *Collections*, p. 117.

BRIZE NORTON

This village, which also bears the alias of Norton Bruern, lies along the high road between Burford and Bampton.

In the beginning of the seventeenth century a family from Yorkshire came to settle here, having apparently bought the Manor; and very soon they began to take their place in the county, and to marry among the neighbouring Catholic gentry.

A chapel was kept up in the usual manner at the top of the house, and a resident Missionary stationed here until the year 1769.

The few details we can gather of the family beyond the bare pedigree are these:—Mr. Thomas Greenwood was a barrister at Oxford early in the century, and married Joane Napier, of Holywell, sister to George Napier, the martyred priest. Of their two sons, the eldest continued the family at Brize Norton, marrying a great-granddaughter of Sir Thomas More, Chancellor of England; the second son settled at Chastleton, and his family continued there for some time.

In 1645 there died at Oxford Dom Paulinus Greenwood, said to be of Brentwood in Essex. Whether he was one of this family cannot certainly be known, but there is no doubt about Dom Gregory Greenwood, who was professed at St. Gregory's, Douay, 1st August, 1688, and was sent home in 1702 to serve as chaplain¹. He was Provincial of Canterbury in 1725, and about that time left Brize Norton for the Throckmortons at Coughton, where he died in August, 1744.

On Feb. 8, 1650–1, the Committee sitting at Deddington reports that 'the estate of Thomas Greenwood is rated in the monthly tax at £125, the full value. The former tenant, tho' he stocked a good part of the ground, refused to give the rent now contracted for².' On the 6th of January, 1654, the name of Thomas Greenwood of Brize Norton is included in the list of Recusants without further particulars³.

In a list of persons presented for recusancy at the General Sessions held at Thirsk, Yorkshire, on the 24th of February, 1690, we find 'Charles Greenwood of Brize-Norton, Oxon, Esq.⁴'; and when

¹ See Weldon's *Notes*, App., p. 11, p. 407.
and *Gillow's Dictionary*, vol. iii, p. 46.

² *Calendar for Compounding*, Part i,

³ u. s., Part v, p. 3179.

⁴ *9th Report Hist. MSS.*, p. 346 b.

we come to the registration of estates in 1716, Charles Greenwood was still in possession, his father, John, having died in 1711, leaving a widow, Margaret.

To all appearance this Margaret was the second wife of Mr. John Greenwood, as Charles, the heir, represents his sister Mary as 'sole sister,' and the widow describes her three daughters.

'Charles Greenwood, of Brize-Norton, Esq., having been beyond seas upon 18 June, 1716, and also several months before. . . . Entailed estate at Brize-Norton, (son of John Greenwood) subject to £1,000 to his sister Mrs. Mary Greenwood, £239 6s. 9d. Charles Greenwood, not being a Papist, but professing to believe the Holy Catholic Church, as the same is expressed in the Apostles' Creed, registers certain lands in Yorkshire, subject to £1,000 for his only sister Mary¹.'

The widow, Mrs. Margaret Greenwood, registers an estate at Lower Quinton, Gloucestershire, 'she maintaining her three daughters, "suitable to their necessity and condition" £80².'

A few years later, in 1730, Mrs. M. Greenwood in her will mentions her 'three loving and dear children, Elizabeth, Anne, and Frances Greenwood.' Charles Greenwood's will was proved 6th of March, 1722, wherein he mentions his wife Anne, only daughter of Francis Canning of Foxcote; cousins Charles Bodenham, Thomas Greenwood of Chastleton, and John Dancastle of Binfield; and appoints his father-in-law and his brother, John Russell of Little Malvern, guardians to his daughter Mary. A son seems to have been born after his death, for Mr. Canning's will in 1733 mentions his daughter Greenwood, widow, and her infant children, Mary and Charles³.

This further we find:—

'Mursley with Salden. The Fortescue estate passed by the marriage of the heiress of Thomas Whorwood, Esq., to Charles Greenwood of Brize Norton, who died 21 Sept. 1751, aged 42, and was succeeded by his son Charles, who owned the estate in 1813⁴.'

The estate at Brize Norton comprised about a thousand acres and was sold in 1813 by Mr. Charles Greenwood to the ancestor of Mr. Worley, who now lives at the Manor House. The further fortunes of the family we may perhaps trace in the Registers of the old Catholic Mission of Winchester. Among other entries of the

¹ Payne's *Non-Jurors*, pp. 74, 217, 334, and Cosin's *List*.

² u.s., p. 68.

³ See Payne's *Records*, pp. 18, 51, 71.

⁴ Lipscombe's *Bucks.*, vol. iii, p. 427. This applies to the estate at Salden.

name we find, '1798, 22nd of November, buried in the old cemetery of St. James, Mr. John Greenwood of Brize Norton Oxfordshire aged 36'; and in '1806, 21st April, Elizabeth Greenwood aged 76, formerly of the same place¹.'

It is said that in the church of St. Nicolas at Ghent may be seen the hatchment to the last of the Greenwoods of Oxfordshire.

The house and land were again sold in 1877 to Christ Church, Oxford. The chapel remained in its original state until 1858, when it was dismantled, and the altar-rails were put into the Parish Church, where they remained until Christ Church undertook the restoration of the chancel as lay rectors, when by their desire the rails were sent to Oxford².

BENEDICTINE PRIESTS.

'Dom Leander. John Davies. Professed at Lambspring, 1689. At Brise-Norton in 1712. Died in London, 1734.

1702-26. Dom Gregory Greenwood. Professed at St. Gregory's, Douai, 1688. Born at Brise Norton, and served the Mission there. Died at Coughton in 1744.

1721. (?) Dom Ildefonsus. Will Bryerley of Leicestershire. Professed at St. Gregory's, Douai, 1708. Perhaps taking the duty of above during absence. Died at Brise Norton, Oct. 12, 1753.

1755-69. Dom Bernard. John Warmoll of Norfolk. Professed at St. Gregory's, Douai, 1737. Moved to Wooler's Hill. Died at Acton-Burnell, 1807³.

CLANFIELD

Thomas Fermor, in his will dated 1580, mentions 'lands in Clanfield.'

In Cosin's *List*, 1716, we find:—

'Appolonia Yate of Longford, co. Salop, Spinster, Estate for life at Clanfield in the Improprate rectory of Clanfield. Stephens, tenant. £33 *os. od.*'

This lady was aunt to the last Sir John Yate of Buckland, sister to Anastatia, wife of the Hon. Thomas Talbot, son of the tenth Earl of Shrewsbury, by his second wife. She must have lived with her

¹ See first vol. of *Catholic Records*, Vicar.
published in 1905.

³ *Necrology*, O. S. B.

² Information from the Rev. J. Wynch,

sister at Longford, Salop. Mrs. Catherine Winford, in her will dated 1698, leaves to 'Mrs. Appolonia Yates a pair of white cornelian beads of five tenns with a reliquary set in gold the shape of a heart¹.'

MINSTER LOVELL

In the Estreate made at Chipping Norton, 1640 (see Chipping Norton), there are entered here:—

' Francis Ewen	}	all at xvi ^d per poll ² .'
Richard „		
Margaret „		
Ellen „		
Maria Pearson		
Alice Ewen		
Bridget Hatton		
Shelagh Morgan		
John Kerwood.		

¹ See Payne's *Non-Jurors*, p. 226, *Centuries in North Oxfordshire*, and *Records*, p. 113. it is also mentioned in Jordan's *Hist.*

² The above is printed in *Three of Enstone*, p. 454.

PART IV. SECTION II

BAMPTON AND HAMLETS

FAMILIES OF TALBOT, YATES, DE LA MORE



BAMPTON

THIS extensive parish upon the Thames side is divided into many members under various owners. For our purpose we need only deal with a portion of this wide district.

Among the principal lords, from the time of Richard II, have been the Talbots, Earls of Shrewsbury; their mansion was the ancient Castle, now known by the name of Ham Farm. The Castle was dismantled early, and there appears to be no record existing to tell us when, but at the time of Antony à Wood's visit in 1664 the remains seem to have been much as we now see them. All that now remains of the Castle is part of the gate-house, having a handsome groined and stone-vaulted roof of two bays, and this is the building which was fitted up as a Catholic chapel in 1856.

ST. MARY'S CHAPEL.

A chapel at Ham Court, or Bampton Castle, was duly licensed on the 26th of June, 1856, the Rev. Francis Guaci Azzopardi, of Buckland, being the priest. The first Mass was sung therein on the 16th of June, on the day of the opening of the Mission, and continued to be said every fortnight until the 23rd of August, 1857.

On the 25th of August, 1856, the Missioner notes:—

‘Ego Franciscus Guaci Azzopardi celebravi pro anima Illius Dmi Berthram Arthuri XVII Comitis Shrewsbury, qui die 10 Augusti 1856 obiit Lisboniae. Hujus Missionis Benefactor et Fundator¹.’

¹ So far the record preserved at the Presbytery, Oxford.

A letter from the Rev. Edward Williams, writing from Buckland, states as follows:—

‘The solitary link between Buckland and Oxon., as I judge, is that a Maltese priest, F. Guaci Azzopardi, set up Mass at Bampton during a year. I helped to fashion a beautiful Oratory in the old Bampton Castle (Lord Shrewsbury’s estate there). The succeeding priest at once shut up Bampton and the elegant “Material” was placed at Oxford for the needs of Mass; these are at Witney. (Signed) E. WILLIAMS.’

The chapel was in the upper part of the gate-house.

ASTON (BAMPTON)

At Aston, a member of Bampton, we find in the list of Catholics (1716) the name of Frances Chapman owning an estate valued at £48 a year. She was daughter of the Lord of the Manor at Aston, Horde, whose family were Protestants at that time. The name of Chapman also occurs at Clanfield.

COTE (BAMPTON)

The name of Lady Falkland calls up romantic and interesting reminiscences of the seventeenth century. She was born at Burford, the only child of Sir Laurence and Lady Tanfield, in 1585. In her sixteenth year she was married to Sir Henry Carey, afterwards created Viscount Falkland. He being appointed Lord Deputy of Ireland, they went there together, leaving their eldest child, Lucius, at Burford with his grandparents. In 1625 Lady Falkland left Ireland with her children for London, and then travelled with them to Burford, where, owing to a deplorable accident, her youngest daughter, Lady Home, only arrived to die. About a year later Lady Falkland was received into the Catholic Church in London, upon which event her husband denied her all subsistence, so that she all but died of want. Her children were removed from her charge, and in her distress she appealed to the Court, the King

appointing a Commission to investigate her case. It seems that she was unwilling to accept the sum awarded to her by the Privy Council apart from her husband, and he returning from Ireland, was rejoined by her on the road, but being overtaken by a serious accident in Buckinghamshire he died, affectionately attended by her. Her eldest son, Lucius, took her to his own home. She died towards the end of the year 1639, and her four remaining daughters became Benedictine nuns at Cambray (now Stanbrook), her son Henry being a Benedictine at Paris¹.

Extract from an order by the Committee of the Privy Council, Oct. 4, 1627:—

‘Whereas upon the humble petition of Elizabeth Vice-Countess of Falkland, wife unto Henry Vis. Falkland now Lord Deputy of Ireland, made unto his Majesty for competent maintenance, etc. We the Lords appointed by his Majesty . . . do finally order and set down as followeth; namely, that the said Lord Deputy shall provide meat, drink, and all necessaries for the said lady his wife, and nine servants to attend her, and all this fitting her quality at the Mansion House called Cote (otherwise Coates) in Oxon.; that the said servants’ wages shall be paid, that there shall be furniture and horses kept for her, whereby to take the air, or otherwise to employ upon necessary occasion, etc.

And we do further order that the said lady shall make her ordinary abode at Coats, except it do plainly appear to us, the said Lords, that the place is unmeet by reason of the unwholesomeness of the air, and in such case, that some other place shall by us be appointed, etc.’

HADDON (BAMPTON)

All traces of Catholicity have long since been blotted out of this member of Bampton parish. In the reign of Edward I this lordship came into the family of de la More, who had had their seat at Northmoor already for two centuries, and who continued in the ancient Faith until the end of the seventeenth century.

In the history of Bampton Church we read:—

‘A Chapel on the south side of the chancel is called the More or Horde aisle. This aisle was erected by the Mores, formerly Lords of Haddon in

¹ *Life of Lady Falkland*, by Lady G. Fullerton. Quarterly series, 1883, 43rd vol., p. 109.

Bampton, one of whom was ruined by standing bail for a person who had committed murder. He was forced to sell the estate to the Yates of Buckland, who gave the aisle to the Hordes. The Hordes took up the monuments of the Mores and put them to the vilest uses¹.

About the reign of Elizabeth the Mores had a substantial house in Bicester, and one of their heiresses married Blount of Mapledurham; they were in a sufficiently opulent position to receive the Queen at their house². The eldest son continued to live at Haddon; no traces of their houses remain, either here or at Bicester, but the site at Haddon seems to be marked by a farm-house.

The following interesting story is taken from Foley³. It is the account of the spy Elliot, who had been busy at Lyford tracking out Father Campion. He states:—

‘John Payne said mass at Mr. William Moore his house at Haddon, Oxon., upon Sunday, being the 2nd July anno reg. 23. At which mass were, the said William Moore and his wife, one Mrs. Tempas, one other gentlewoman daughter of the said William, Edward Moore and Mary Moore brother and sister to William Moore, two serving men-servants to the said William and myself.

Godsoffe said mass there on Tuesday, the fourth of the said month, at which mass were all the persons aforesaid, the said William Moore excepted. Signed, G. E.’

The above-mentioned Mrs. Tempas was daughter of Will More; of the other sister we know nothing.

We hear no more of the Mores until we come across a notice in Antony à Wood’s Diaries:—

‘Northmoor belonged to the Moores or de la Mores. In the church there lies a knyght Templar with arms of de la More, same as those at Bampton church for More of Haddon. A certain Thomas de la More lived at Payne’s Farm, parish of Tainton near Burford, who pretended to be descended from them⁴.

This was about the year 1664–5, and it seems probable that this is the Thomas de la More of ‘Gray’s Inn’ who compiled the family pedigree. Wood also says that he restored the arms in Northmoor

¹ Report of the North Oxfordshire Archaeological Society, 1871, p. 37.

² See Blomfield’s *Bicester*.

³ Vol. ii, p. 589.

⁴ *Life and Times*, vol. i, p. 272.

Church, and calls him a 'mad man.' His father John is styled in the pedigree of Tainton 'nuper de Haddon.'

YATES OR YATE FAMILY.

The numerous and influential family of Yates of Berkshire held an important interest in Bampton and its neighbourhood, and the history of the town is full of references to them and their affairs. One family of Yates settled in Oxfordshire at Kencott, upon a property apparently bearing the name of 'Bendlott.' This name has entirely disappeared, with all memory of the family, and one entry only of a baptism occurs in the Kencott Register, 'Thomas Yate, gentleman, was baptised the 19th Jan. 1598.'

The Visitation of Oxfordshire gives us Francis Yate of 'Bendlott,' who married Elizabeth Platt of Sparsholt; and the Berkshire Visitation tells us that the same Elizabeth married F. Yate of Kencott; clearly proving 'Bendlott' to be the same as Kencott—probably some forgotten manor near the river.

Besides the above John there were five daughters of this marriage. We have no more notice of them, but the property clearly was part of the general inheritance of the Yates family, and we find that in 1718 Rawlinson visited the place, putting on record that the estate of Kencott was sold by the Yates of Buckland in 1708 to Mr. Jordan¹.

We have no further notices of any Catholic affairs in Bampton or its hamlets.

WITNEY

Mr. Daniel Hanley, of Oxford, left £500 in his will for the Witney Mission, if any should be established there. Mass was said about once a month for several years by one of the priests from Oxford.

The stationmaster, being a Catholic, furnished the room; and the vestments, as we have seen, were those from Bampton. The priest from Buckland served the place after the Oxford clergy gave it up, but eventually the altar furniture was removed to Oxford.

In a List of Papists kept at Woodstock, 1706, John Whiting and his family and three or four more persons are returned as living at Witney.

¹ *Rawlinson MSS.*, B 400, f.

PART IV. SECTION III
STANTON HARCOURT, AND OTHERS

*FAMILIES OF HARCOURT AND
ALEXANDER POPE*



STANTON HARCOURT

HARCOURT FAMILY.

THERE is no need to allude to the position of the Harcourts in this county; it is sufficiently well known to the world at large. Down to the middle of the seventeenth century the family of Harcourt were still upon the list of Recusants. Writing in 1657 Wood says, 'Stanton Harcourt without doubt was most if not all Catholicks divers years after the Reformation. The Harcourts were ¹.'

A scion of this family signalized himself by leading an expedition to Guiana. Robert Harcourt, eldest son of Walter Harcourt of Stanton Harcourt, who was born at Ellenhall, co. Salop, was admitted gentleman commoner at St. Alban's Hall, Oxford, aged 15, 1589. He left England in company with Sir Walter Raleigh and voyaged to the West Indies, and subsequently appears to have equipped a fleet on his own account. The account of his travels was published by him in 1613 and also in 1626, from which we draw the following extract. He tells us:—

'In the year of our Lord 1608 and the three-and-twentieth of March, when I had furnished myself with one ship of four score Tunnes called "the Rose"; a Pinnace of sixe and thirty Tunnes called "the Patience"; and of a Shallope of nine Tunnes called "the Lilly" which I built at Dartmouth; and had finished my other businesse there, and prepared all things in readinesse to begin my voyage, the winde reasonably serving, I then embarked my companie as followeth. Capt. Edward Fisher, Captain

¹ *Life and Times*, vol. i, p. 220.

Edward Harvey; master Edward Gifford; his cousin Thomas Harcourt; his brother Michael Harcourt, capt. of "the Patience"; Jasper Lilly, commander of "the Lily"¹.

After many adventures and discoveries, provisions threatening to run short, he left his brother Michael, Edward Gifford, and about twenty men in the country, and returned to England. His cousin, Unton Fisher, was left in another place. He landed in Guiana upon May 11, 1609, and subsequently received from the King the patent for the plantation of that country².

After relating his three years' travels, Robert Harcourt mentions his son Simon, who died in Dublin in 1642 leaving issue. Possibly from having left England without a royal licence he was proclaimed an outlaw, and his estates were dealt with accordingly:—

1609. 'Grant to Robert Campbell, Christopher Biggs of Stapleford, Wilts, and Edmund Tattersall of Catmere, Berks, of the benefit of the recusancy of Robert Harcourt of S. Harcourt³.'

1617. 'Possessions of Robert Harcourt, an outlaw, co. Middlesex and Oxford⁴.'

1619. 'Grant to Bartholomew Beale of Gray's Inn for the benefit of Sir Wm. Harmon of the moiety of the Manor of Norbury and other lands, for rents owing by Thomas Fitzherbert of Norbury, Derbyshire, to Robert Harcourt of Stanton Oxon, an Outlaw, the benefit of whose owlawry was granted to Sir W. Harmon⁵.'

1635. 'Notice of alleged sale of Staunton Harcourt by Robert Harcourt to John Ailworth⁶.'

Robert Harcourt married twice, first Elizabeth, daughter of John FitzHerbert of Norbury; and secondly Frances, daughter of Geoffrey Vere, son of the thirteenth Earl of Oxford. A cousin of his, Father Greenway, S.J., mentions his relationship to the Harcourts in this way:—

'My mother was Winefred of the knightly family of Harcourt. Sir Walter Harcourt is my only relation on my mother's side. He is a schismatic. His eldest son Robert with his wife Francisca, sister to Sir Thomas Vere, Knt., are sincere Catholics⁷.'

¹ *A relation of a voyage to Guiana*, by Robert Harcourt of S. H. in the co. of Oxford, Esq. London, 1613, 4to.

² See Letters Patent of the grant of part of Guiana, &c., printed in *9th Report Hist. MSS.*, p. 270 b.

³ *State Papers Domestic*, 1603-10, p. 557.

⁴ *Dep. K. of Records*, vol. xxxviii, p. 99.

⁵ *State Papers Domestic*, July 12, 1619.

⁶ *Dep. K. of Records Domestic*, 1625 to 1649, p. 496.

⁷ *Foley*, vol. i, p. 466.

ALEXANDER POPE.

Connected both with the Catholics of Oxfordshire and with Stanton Harcourt was our great poet, Alexander Pope, whose family, if not himself, received their birth in this county, and who was personally so intimately mixed up with many Catholic families resident here. The family of Pope were settled at Deddington in the fifteenth century. A scion of this family purchased Wroxton Abbey and became the founder of Trinity College, Oxford. The Popes also held the Manor of Ardley-cum-Fewcote, Oxon.

The antiquarian Hearne says:—

‘Mr. Pope’s father was of a gentleman’s family in Oxfordshire, the head of which was the Earl of Downe, whose sole heiress married the Earl of Lindsey. His mother was the daughter of William Turner, Esq., of Yorkshire; she had three brothers, one of whom was killed, another died in the service of King Charles, the eldest following his fortunes, and becoming a general officer in Spain, left her what estate remained after the sequestrations and forfeitures of her family. Mr. Pope died 1717, aged 75, and she in 1733, aged 93¹.’

Although the precise connexion cannot be traced, as Mr. Pope himself never revealed it, it is probable that his father was one of the family who lived at Coggs; he went into business in London and made the fortune upon which he subsisted during his life. The intimacy which existed between Alexander Pope and the principal Catholic families of this county points to more than mere literary merit, and argues a close connexion of blood and religion between them. As a child he was under the care of Mr. Taverner, who was subsequently chaplain at Warkworth. In the *Harcourt Papers* we read many interesting circumstances relating to Pope.

The old family mansion at Stanton Harcourt had not been inhabited by any member of the family since the death of Sir Philip Harcourt in 1688; his widow, on whom the estate was settled for life, sold the furniture and allowed the house to fall into decay. She died in 1713, leaving the house so far dilapidated that Earl Simon pulled it down and made use of the stones in the building of Nuneham. Lord Chancellor Harcourt in 1713 resided at Cokethorpe, about two miles distant, and assembled round his table all the litterati of the day. Pope, Swift, Gay, Prior, Phillips, Arbuthnot, and Parnell were frequently at this house.

¹ Foley, *Records*.

Pope was at that time engaged upon his *Homer*, and Lord Harcourt fitted up some rooms in a tower—the summer-house—at Stanton for his accommodation, and here he passed a great part of two summers, accompanied by his mother. Upon a piece of red stained glass he has recorded that ‘In the year 1718, I, Alexander Pope, finished here the fifth volume of *Homer*.’ The piece of glass is preserved now at Nuneham.

In the second volume of the *Harcourt Papers*, p. 184, we find the following letter from a young Lady Harcourt to a lady friend :—

‘Cockthorpe, August 16, 1718.

Mr. Gay has left us, Mr. Pope and his mother being come to Stanton Harcourt; she is a very good sort of a woman and will make a very good neighbour whilst she stays, which I believe will be about a month or six weeks longer, by that time I suppose they will be weary of their solitude. . . . One hears dayly of some sad accident or other occasioned by the thunder and lightning that happened lately. There were two people killed in a field at Stanton Harcourt, a man and a woman, they were to have been married at Michaelmas; they are both buried in a grave, and my father tells Mr. Pope and Mr. Gay that he thinks they ought to make an Epitaph upon them.’

This one of the poets accordingly did, and it may still be seen upon the church wall.

The following letter from Pope to his patron shows the dilemma he was in as a ‘Papist’ at one of the constantly recurring occasions when his religion would be challenged :—

TO LORD HARCOURT.

‘Munday, 9 a’ clock. May 5, 1723.

MY LORD,—Your Lordship gave me a hint in relation to what I was to say before the Lords and to the proper manner of answering, which I thought would be of great service to me, as well as extremely obliging in your Lordship. I shall certainly to the best of my memory observe it.

But I have chanc’t to drop a paper in which I had set it down, and where I had entered another memorandum to ask you about, which makes me wish I had found an opportunity this day, or early to-morrow, to talk further to your Lordship hereon. I resolve to take an opportunity of declaring (even upon oath) how different I am from what a reputed Papist is. I could almost wish I was asked if I am not a Papist.

Would it be proper, in such case, to reply, I don’t perfectly know the import of the word, and would not answer anything that might, for ought I know, be prejudicial to me, during the bill against such, which is depending. But that, *if to be a Papist be to profess and hold many such tenets*

*of faith as are ascribed to Papists, I am not a Papist. And if to be a Papist, to hold any that are averse to, or destructive of, the present government, King or Constitution, I am no Papist*¹. I very much wish I had your Lordship's opinion a little more at large, since probably I may not be called upon this day or to-morrow. I know your humanity and particular kindness to me, and therefore will add no more, but that I am, what it is impossible for me not to be, highly sensible of it, and entirely

Your Lordship's most obliged, faithfull servant,

A. POPE².

Pope appears to have been at Twickenham when this was written; the sequel does not appear in the correspondence.

COKETHORP

In the parish of Ducklington stands Cokethorp House, the only dwelling in the manor. Previous to the erection of this mansion, a Catholic family named Haywood appears to have lived at Cokethorp. 'Dom Gregory Haywood of Cokethorpe, Oxon, was professed at St. Gregory's, Douai, 28th December 1621'³.

Walter Haywood had three children baptized at Ducklington between 1605 and 1615⁴.

Father Francis Haywood, S.J., died at Ghent in March, 1706⁵.

The name of Heywood is of frequent occurrence in the county history. Francis Heywood, of Crowsley, was lord of the manor of Shiplake after the departure of the Plowdens. Can he have been such *pro temporis* as Attorney⁶? He was son of F. Heywood, of Forest Hill, who married Mary Smith of Harn-Hill, Gloucestershire, and of Kidlington. Francis the younger was High Sheriff in 1733. Wood mentions them in Oxford, and his family sold a house in Holywell in 1691 to Francis Heywood; also

'The Mayor Mr. Francis Heywood is turned out from brewing for St. John's: Feb. 1672'⁷.

Whether this family of Heywood were Catholics may be considered doubtful.

The trustees of Mrs. Heywood pulled down the old mansion of the Carrington-Smiths at Ledwell.

¹ These lines are in italics in the original.

² *Harcourt Papers*, vol. ii, p. 92.

³ See Weldon.

⁴ *Macray's Ducklington Register*.

⁵ *Oliver's Biographies*, S.J.

⁶ See Mrs. Climençon's *Shiplake*, p. 305.

⁷ *Wood's Life and Times*, vol. ii, p. 242, and vol. iii, p. 362.

STANDLAKE AND NORTHMOOR

These parishes, bounded by the Thames on the south and west, have Stanton Harcourt and Cokethorp for their northern boundary.

Naturally we find the same names of families as those of the surrounding parishes. A branch of the Yates of Witney and of Charney, Berks., was settled here in 1544 and kept the Faith until recent days.

Jane Yate of Standlake married William Pope of Deddington, at the end of the sixteenth century¹.

 HYDE FAMILY.

This Berkshire Catholic family was also represented at Standlake.

‘Mary Hyde, estate at Stanlake, Richard Tuckey tenant.’

‘Mary Hyde, widow of Will. Hyde, gent. Entailed estate at Stanlake, £93 *or. od.*²’

‘The will of Mary Hide of Stanlake, she names her sons Richard and Charles and her daughter Anne as also her nephew Francis Risdon of London. 1732-33³.’

(For Hyde family see also Whitchurch.)

 NORTHMOOR

The original owners of this parish were the de la More family, whose history we have already discussed under Haddon.

The only notice of more recent times that we can discover is the fact that a certain field in the parish pays £2 per annum to the Oxford Mission.

This piece of land, a little over one acre, was bought in 1841 for the Mission by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. Can this have been with the money representing the ‘Shotover Right’⁴

¹ See Baker's *Northants*.

² Cosin's *List*, 1716, and Payne's
Non-Jurors, p. 213.

³ Payne's *Records*, p. 50.

⁴ See City of Oxford, *infra*.

PART V. SECTION I

WOODSTOCK, GODSTOW, YARNTON, CASSINGTON, WOLVERCOTE, KIDLINGTON

FAMILIES OF OWEN, REYNOLDS, AND OTHERS



WOODSTOCK

WOODSTOCK was one of the 'Stations' laid down by Father R. Blunt, S.J., for the periodical visits of the Jesuits.

The old Manor House was a royal shooting- or hunting-box down to the time of its demolition, and doubtless there were many in the royal train who wished to avail themselves of the ministration of a Catholic priest, while paying a visit to Woodstock. Of any particular Catholic family there we are entirely ignorant, and there only appears an entry in the town books of the presentment of one poor 'Papist' before the magistrates. Father C. Leslie was supposed to have jurisdiction here while he served Oxford and Waterperry. When King James II visited Woodstock for a grand hunting foray he was invited by the Mayor and Aldermen to revise their constitution, to which the King assented, and gave them a new charter dated 27th August, 1688, in which 'the members of the Council were excused from taking the oath of allegiance and supremacy, from partaking of the Lord's Supper according to the rites of the Church of England, and from making the Declaration against Popish Recusants.' Equally evanescent with his attempted reconstruction of Magdalen College, this radical change in a thoroughly Protestant Corporation had only a short existence. In a very few months James had fled to Rochester before the invasion of his son-in-law, and as a last

expedient to retain the favour of his people he issued at Faversham a proclamation reinstating certain ancient charities and annulling some which he had recently granted, among which was this of Woodstock¹.

Thomas Fermor, of Somerton, in his will dated 1580, makes mention of his lands, &c., in Woodstock, among other places.

GODSTOW

Who among those who have lived near Godstow can have been indifferent to the memory of 'Fair Rosamond,' the fair frail schoolgirl who yielded too easily to the temptation of rank and pleasure, but who so well redeemed her honour by a life of prayer and penance in the Benedictine Abbey of 'God's Stow'?

In this house, after evil days had fallen and the nuns dispersed, dwelt a Catholic family named Owen.

Dr. George Owen was physician to King Henry VIII, and for professional services many manors round Oxford were made over to him upon easy terms, some to be resold almost immediately. Godstow, however, was kept in the possession of the Owen family for more than a century. It is one of the perplexing questions arising from the complications, both religious and civil, of those times; how came it that men who were reputed steady-going Catholics could and did accept of Church lands? Some answer is found in the *Life* of the Duchess of Feria, Jane Dormer². It appears that the family of Sir Robert Dormer required some explanation of his conduct in purchasing Abbey lands. The excuse was that his intimates and contemporaries were all eager for the spoils, and that if Sir Robert held to his refusal to purchase when it was clearly laid in his way upon such easy terms, the King's attention would be drawn towards him and his allegiance placed in serious doubt. These considerations weighing upon the minds of men of worth, the situation was accepted, and their consciences calmed by maintaining the Faith around them, and offering refuge to those hiding from persecution.

In this manner Dr. Owen acted. He also held Yarnton Manor as

¹ See *Chronicles of Woodstock*, by A. Ballard, p. 101.

² *Quarterly Series*, No. 62.

part of his fee as King's Physician. The grant is dated 1540 and he sold it about four years later.

1580. 'July. I hear from Rome that Mr. Owen's son of Godstow, who was at the Seminary there, is dead ¹.'

1583. 'Feb. The names of certain persons noted to be receivers and entertainers of Jesuits and Seminarists. . . . Mr. Owen of Godstow keepeth him continually in his house Hynde a priest ².'

'Petition to John Chamberlayne to the Council in behalf of Richard Owen of Godstowe, a recusant, that he may have license to return home, his wife being extremely sick, for which he offers to give good assurance not to depart above three miles from his home without license ³.'

John Chamberlayne was brother-in-law to Owen, and was a man of considerable influence in the county, he and his family having held important offices under the Crown, and had been Bailiffs to the confiscated estates of the Earl of Suffolk and Rangers of Woodstock Park.

Godstow House was occupied by a garrison of Royalist troops in 1644, and when Fairfax appeared before Oxford to invest the town it was burnt by its inhabitants in May, 1645, to render it untenable by the enemy. Since then it has remained a ruin.

In 1718 Hearne remarks upon the occasion of a walk to Godstow with a friend :—

'Godstow now belongs to the Duke of Marlborough, he having purchased it from Sir John Walters. I suppose the chapel was a private chapel for the Chapter, or rather I suppose it to be made a chapel since the Dissolution on purpose for the Family that dwelt there as Proprietors ⁴.'

It would appear from the above that Walters, who was buried at Wolvercote, had succeeded Owen in the manor.

A notice of John Owen, 'Confessor,' will be found in *Gillow*, vol. v.

YARNTON

The Spencer family, Lords of this Manor, have given hostages to Catholicity in their cadet branches, probably owing to the influence of the great family of Butler, Earls of Ormonde, who at this period

¹ *Calendar State Papers Domestic: Elizabeth*, Addenda, 1580-1625, p. 11.

² See p. 1 of this Work.

³ *State Papers Domestic*, 1589, p. 583.

⁴ *Collections*, O. H. S., vol. vi, p. 172.

were still adherents to the ancient Faith : their name is to be found in the history of several of our Oxfordshire villages.

Sir Thomas Spencer, of Yarnton, died in 1622, and his widow married, as his second wife, Richard, third Viscount Mountgarret, General of the Irish forces. His eldest son, Edmund, fourth Viscount, was the husband of Elizabeth Simeon, of Pyrton. Lady Mountgarret, *olim* Spencer, was daughter to Richard Brainthwaite, of Ringwood, Hants. She spent much time at Yarnton in her second widowhood, and died there at an advanced age. The Parish Register has : ' 1656, the Right Honble Margaret Lady Mountgarret, formerly wife to Sir Thomas Spencer, Bart. : buried privately on St. Thomas' Day¹. Does not the word 'privately' applied to the burial of such a well-known person in her own home point to want of conformity with the Church of England? The Spencers were a numerous family, and besides her own daughters, Lady Mountgarret had several sisters-in-law, who returned to the family home for the birth of their children. The eldest, Elizabeth, married Sir Thomas Russell, of Strensham, co. Worcester, and their five children were born at Yarnton. Their son, Sir William Russell, was received into the Catholic Church in the house of the Venetian Ambassador by Father Bede Travers, a Carmelite Friar², and two of their daughters married into old Catholic families.

The second sister-in-law of Lady Mountgarret was Katherine Spencer, married to Sir Henry Montague, and by him mother to Walter Montague, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Martin's at Pontoise by the favour of the Queen-Mother of France. Coming to England he was apprehended at Rochester in 1643, and remained in prison during four years, after which he was banished the kingdom by vote of Parliament.

1643. 'Oct. 11. Watt Montague coming over amongst the French was taken disguised at Rochester this last week and sent thence to the Tower. The Ambassador demands his restitution as a person that hath letters from the Queen Regent to the Queen of England³.'

Abbot Montague died in Paris in 1670.

A later generation brings us to Mr. William Spencer, the only son of the family, who died in his twenty-seventh year in his father's lifetime. Of him Wood says :—

¹ *Three Oxfordshire Parishes*, O.H.S.

³ *12th Report Historical MSS.*, App.

² *Carmel in England*, by F. B. Zimmermann, p. 209.

ii, p. 338, Coke MSS.

1683. 'Sept. 13. Mr. William Spencer, eldest son of Sir Thomas Spencer of Yarnton, Bart., died. Professed himself a Papist. I had some acquaintance with him¹.'

One sister of this young man married into the Mordaunt family, a strong Catholic connexion. In *Carmel in England*² we are told that in 1688 there were only five Carmelites in England, one of whom was 'at or near Oxford.' May this point to Yarnton? Add to these facts the Catholicity of the Vicar, the Rev. John Goad, during his long incumbency, and the popular story of 'Gulliver's Ghost,' which perhaps concealed the private chapel from vulgar curiosity, and we may draw our own inferences upon the subject with a tolerable amount of certainty.

The Vicar of Yarnton certainly became a Catholic and had probably felt the same influence working upon him during his residence there. Mr. John Goad was a man of learning and parts who in his youth had been a conspicuous member of St. John's College and Vicar of St. Giles's, Oxford. He became Vicar of Yarnton in 1646-7, and for twenty-four years the parish books are all carefully written by him. After the Restoration in 1661, he retired from the living, and spent some years as schoolmaster; at length he was publicly received into the Church at Somerset House about 1686. Wood supposes this to have taken place in 1660, which shows what public opinion held him to be as far back as that date. He died in London, 1689³.

In a list of Papists⁴ in July, 1706, we find 'Yarnton. John Fowler, a servant.' N.B. The Spencers were still at the Manor House.

EYNSHAM

A small Mission was begun in this town in the beginning of 1895 by the zeal of Mr. Herbert May. The chapel was first of all in

¹ *Life and Times*, vol. iii, p. 73. With a curious inconsistency between his morals and his creed, shared with by his royal masters, Wood gives us the following story of the Yarnton Squire (vol. ii, p. 41):—'. . . widow of Humphrey Hyde of Wick by Abingdon died at her house in St. Giles' parish, 6 July 1665, and was buried by her husband in Radley Church. Their issue were, 1. Christiana unmarried, con-

cubine to Sir Thomas Spencer of Yarnton, in whose house there she now liveth, 1677. She died at Yarnton, Aug. 1682, and left her estate to him for the use of her children by him. &c., &c.'

² u. s., p. 133.

³ *Three Oxfordshire Parishes*: Yarnton, O. H. S., and *Gillow's Dictionary*.

⁴ Kept at Woodstock.

a large room adjoining the stabling of a house called 'Newland Lodge,' where Mr. May then lived; after that in the drawing-room of the house. The house being unfortunately burnt, the chapel was removed to a club-room belonging to the Railway Inn. Mr. May having settled in a house called St. Michael's, the chapel was again set up in his drawing-room to secure the reservation of the Blessed Sacrament during Sundays. The place was served from Oxford to begin with, one or other of the Fathers there going over to stay the night and say Mass in the morning; later the Servite Fathers from Begbroke undertook it. There was an average attendance at Mass of between forty and fifty, and also a school attendance of from sixty to eighty children, not all, but about half, being Catholic. The Bishop gave Confirmation at Eynsham once. From a variety of accidental as well as unforeseen circumstances the Mission at last failed, and was finally closed at the end of June, 1898¹.

CASSINGTON

REYNOLDS FAMILY.

The Reynoldses may claim a high place among the thoroughly academical families of the sixteenth century. Being a numerous sept of an old Devonshire stock, many of them were sent or came up to the University to get their education, and to chance their fortune in one or other of the learned professions. Following the religious uncertainties of the day, some of them leaned to the new ideas concerning faith, and several adhered to the old religion.

The head of the family, about the opening of the sixteenth century, was Richard Reynolds, of Pinhoe (about two miles from Exeter). He was father of three sons—Thomas, Michael, and Richard. Of the third, Richard, we will speak presently; of Michael all we know is that, '*testes pictae foenestrae*,' he was Rector of Pinhoe, where Thomas, the eldest son, was born. Thomas was elected Fellow of Merton in 1524², and after filling many high positions in the Church and in the University, he was finally committed to the Marshalsea

¹ From information supplied by Mr. May.

² *Merton College*, by the Hon. G. C. Brodrick, O. H. S., p. 164.

in 1559, for refusing the Oath of Supremacy, and he died in prison in November of that year.

To return to Richard, the third brother. He married and became the father of six sons and one daughter, of whom: 1. Jerome, the eldest son, was elected to a scholarship at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, from Devon, June 15, 1548. It was the custom of that College that one of the Fellows should profess Medicine, probably with a view to attending to the health of his fellow collegians, so we find Jerome Reynolds 'Medical Fellow' in 1558-9, and laying aside for a time his studies in Divinity, he supplicated for the degree of Bachelor in Medicine and for leave to practise in February, 1563-4. A feeling at this time sprang up in the College against some of its members as leaning too strongly to the old Faith, which ended in the expulsion of Jerome Reynolds and several of the Fellows. After this he practised medicine publicly for some years, but eventually left Oxford, and going abroad, returned to his original study of Theology.

2. The second brother, William, was sent to Winchester School, and thence passed to New College, Oxford, as Probationer in 1560, and became Fellow of the College.

'Left that house in 1572 and retired to Hart Hall. In 1575 the last year of the Jubilee, he went to Rome, and afterwards spent many years as a Catholic at Rheims and Antwerp. He wrote many controversial works under the name of William Rosseus, and eventually died at Antwerp on 24th August, 1594, being buried in the Choir of the Beguine's Church close to the High Altar upon the Epistle side¹.'

While at Rheims, William Reynolds was appointed one of the five Oxford graduates to undertake the translation of the Scriptures into English, which work had been begun about twenty years before, in 1578. We shall see later that his brother John was the principal mover and worker in the labour upon the 'Authorized English Version.'

3. Edmund, the third brother, came up from Devon as Scholar to Corpus Christi College, Oxford, in 1557, while his eldest brother was 'Medical Fellow' of the house, and he served several years as Bursar². Upon the election of a new President, William Cole,

¹ *Athenae*, ed. Bliss, vol. i, p. 615. personally.

Here Wood quotes from Father Rob. Parsons, S.J., who knew W. Reynolds

² *History of C.C.C.*, by Rev. Thomas Fowler, O. H. S.

in 1568, it was found that many of the Fellows were inclined to Roman Catholicism, and three were ejected upon this plea, viz. Edmund Reynolds, Miles Windsore, and George Napier. Edmund Reynolds retired to Gloucester Hall, with many another distinguished Catholic—the future Cardinal Allen for one—where he lived for many years as a noted Tutor and friend to many of his young co-religionists. The house in which he lived is still standing as part of Worcester College, viz. ‘The dwelling on the south side which has the rebus of a combe and a tun with the letter T and another shield with three cups’¹.

‘The learned Edmund Reynolds who was turned Catholique by his brother Dr. John R., President of Corpus Xt. Coll. was of Glo’cester Hall with Mr. Thomas Allen. They were both men of an age and they dyed both within twelve months one of th’other. Mr. Allen came into the hall to commons but Mr. Reynolds had his brought to his chamber’².

Edmund Reynolds seems to have kept up an interest in his old College in spite of its treatment of him, and having accumulated money during his sixty years’ labour as Tutor, he expended a certain sum upon his Alma Mater. In the College books for the year 1624 we read :—

‘24th Dec. Taken out of the great chest for the battlements of the College, untill it shall be repayed by Mr. Edmund Rainolde, whose promise caused the worke to be begun, the summe of £195 17s. 1½d.’³

Before his death Edmund Reynolds bought land at Wolvercote and Cassington, which he left to his nephews⁴. He died, probably at Gloucester Hall, on the 20th November, 1630, in the 93rd year of his age. His grave is in Wolvercote Church, under a blue marble stone, with an inscription of eight lines now illegible. His bust was once to be seen in brass, inlaid in the stone, surrounded by the words ‘he opened his hand to the Poor,’ &c.

4. The fourth son, James. Nominated Petrean Fellow of Exeter College, 1566. B.A. 1569; M.A. 1573; College Reader, 1577, 30 June; died about three months later⁵.

5. The fifth son, John Reynolds. Born at Pinhoe about Michael-

¹ Wood’s *City of Oxford*, vol. ii, p. 253, O. H. S.

² Aubrey’s *Brief Lives*, vol. i, p. 26, ed. Andrew Clark.

³ Fowler, u. s., p. 76.

⁴ Wood’s *Life and Times*, vol. i, p. 419, O. H. S.

⁵ *Exeter College*, by C. W. Boase, O. H. S., p. 75.

mas Day, 1549. He seems to have entered originally at Merton, where his uncle was Warden, but was only thirteen years and seven months old when he was elected to a Scholarship at Corpus, April 29, 1563. At the early age of seventeen he became Probationary Fellow, Oct. 11, 1566, and full Fellow at nineteen. At the age of twenty he was selected by the President of his College to be Tutor to Hooker, the future Divine; and took his B.A. degree in 1568. He became Greek Reader in 1572-3, and from that time his 'fame grew.' In his lectures he read the books of Aristotle, and there still exists in the Bodleian Library the copy of the *Rhetoric* from which he lectured. In 1598 he was elected President of Corpus Christi. A Conference had assembled at Hampton Court in January, 1603-4, at the suggestion of the King, to endeavour to come to some settlement of the endless disputes upon ecclesiastical matters which were rife at the time; to this Dr. John Reynolds was summoned, and took so leading a part that he was styled their 'foreman.' During the continuance of their work the Translators¹ used to frequent his lodgings at Corpus to consult upon the matter, 'there 'tis said they perfected the work.' We have already noticed that the elder brother was the translator of the Rheims version. Dr. J. Reynolds died in his 58th year, May 21, 1607, and was buried in the Choir of the College Chapel. Upon his portrait are engraved the words 'Melior et doctior².'

We may here mention a curious episode in the life of two of the Reynolds brothers, William, and John, the President of Corpus. Whatever the truth may have been, the discussion so attracted men's attention at the time that Camden in his *Britannia* alludes to it as adding importance to their birthplace at Pinhoe. He says, 'The parish of Pinhoe is remarkable for bringing forth the two Rainolds brothers, John and William, zealous maintainers both of the Reformed and the Popish religion in their turns³.' Bishop Hall, writing to a friend soon after the death of Dr. John Reynolds, says: 'This John Reynolds at the first was a zealous Papist, whilst William his brother was as earnest a Protestant, and afterwards Providence so ordered it that by their mutual disputation John Reynolds turned an eminent Protestant and William an inveterate Papist.' There hardly seems sufficient evidence for this story in its ultimate consequences, but that

¹ Of the Bible.

² *History of C.C.C.*, u. s., p. 157, O. H. S.

³ u. s., p. 167.

some such thing must have taken place we may conclude from the following verses ¹:—

‘In duas Reginaldus fratres inter se de religione certantes et in contrarius versus.

Between two brothers civil wars and worse
The nice point of religion long did nurse.
For reformation of the faith he plies,
That faith should be reformed this denies.
The reasons of each cause apart propounded,
Both meet alike, both full alike confounded.
As hart would wish each brother other takes,
As fate would have it each his faith forsakes;
Whilst captives both are captive ledd
And to the vanquishd came the victor fled.
What fight is this when conquered both are glad,
And either to have conquered other sad.’

The next we hear of the family is their settlement at Cassington, a property left to William by his uncle Edmund. From this time forth the Cassington family remained Catholic; of the brother at Pinhoe we may doubt.

A ‘Quietus Roll’ of the 11th Charles I has:—

‘Jacob Reynolds Firma terr’ Richard Reynolds de Cassington £0 53s. 4d.
and terr’ William Reynolds de Cassington. £20 os. od.’

The same roll mentions ‘Michel Cole Firma terr’ Robert Bowne de Cassington, £0 10s. 8.’

During the Civil Wars the family took their share in troubles:—

‘Wm. Reynolds, Recusant, Oct. 1646. Information that Simms of Langford near Bradwell Essex and Peter Langstone of Oxford owe him £100 each ².’

‘8th Feb. 1650-1. For William Reynolds’ estate £80 a year there were divers competitors and £22 was the utmost offer for two-thirds and yet he that has taken it is willing in case another will give more, to leave it ³.’

Mr. William Reynolds by his second wife, Frances Loggan of Idbury, left a son Christopher, who carried on the family at Cassington, and undoubtedly had a chapel in the house. By his third wife, Alice

¹ Ashmolean MSS. 38, p. 74, by William Alabaster, who died 1640. Wood says that the dispute took place between Edmund and John. See Bliss, *Fasti*, p. 165.

² *Calendar for Advance of Money*, part ii, p. 735.

³ *Calendar for Compounding*, part i, p. 407.

Whitgreave of Moseley, Staffordshire, he had two sons, first William, D.D., educated at Lisbon, and probably belonging to Syon House there; he was appointed Archdeacon by the 'London Chapter,' of Oxon., Bucks., and Berks. He is buried in Souldern in the same grave with his mother, March, 1716-17, aged 71. The second son was Francis, who was living in his uncle's house at Moseley, under the charge of Father Huddleston, O.S.B., at that time Chaplain to Mr. Whitgreave. Francis Reynolds's share in the affair at Boscobel is of interest and very well authenticated. In Thomas Blount's *Boscobel*¹ we find the following account:—

'Mr. Huddleston had under his charge young Sir Thomas Preston, Mr. Thomas Playne, and Mr. Francis Reynolds, and on this Tuesday in the morning (the better to conceal his Majesty being in the house and excuse his own more than usual long stay above stairs) pretended himself to be indisposed and afraid of the soldiers, and therefore set his scholars at several garret windows and surveyed the roads to watch and give notice when they saw any troopers coming. This service the youths performed very diligently all the day, and at night when they were at supper Sir Thomas called upon his companions and said (more truly than he imagined) "Come lads let us eat lustily for we have been upon the life-guard to-day!" and so they went to supper².'

The House of Lords made an Order concerning all who were instrumental in hiding Prince Charles at Boscobel:—

'So and so and Mr. Francis Reynolds of Charleton, Bedfordshire, shall for their service live as freely as any of his Majesty's Protestant subjects without being liable to any penalty of the law relating to Popish Recusants and that a bill be prepared for that purpose and the name of John Huddleston be inscribed therein².'

The same transaction is reported in *11th Report Hist. MSS.*, App. ii, p. 93:—

1678-9. 'Exempts from Acts against Popish Recusants except so far as the Oath of Allegiance, the following persons, who altho' Papists were yet very instrumental in the preservation of the King's person after the flight from Worcester and have thereby merited as a reward for their loyalty to be distinguished from others of their religion:—Mr. Ch. Gifford, Francis Yates and his wife, William, John, Richard, Humphrey and George Pendrell, Mr. Thomas Whitgreave, Colonel Will. Carlos, Mr. Francis Reynolds, Mr. J. Huddleston, Mr. Francis Wolfe of Madeley, George Middleton in Sussex and Mervin Touchet, Esqre.'

¹, ² pp. 46 seq.

² *Catholicon*, vol. i, Dec., 1678.

The name of the Pendrells is so well known in connexion with this episode that an account of their actions at this memorable time will be interesting to us.

'9th Sept. 1651. The previous Thursday the King, attended by Richard Pendrell, went to Madeley, Salop, to the house of Mr. Francis Woolf; he was received well by the family; all day he was concealed in a hay barn, and Mrs. Woolf provided walnut juice to stain his hands and face¹.'

Francis Woolfe was connected with the family at North Aston, and he had property at Ramsden.

'Richard Pendrell, preserver and conductor of his most sacred Majesty Charles II, after his escape from Worcester, died Th. 8 Feb., 1671-2, and was buried in the north side of the yard of St. Giles' Church in the Fields, London. Over his grave is a fair altar monument and about 10 English verses engraved thereon².'

According to Wood, Francis Reynolds became later on a Chancery lawyer, and settled at Carlton, Bedfordshire; all his children were dead except two daughters, when Wood wrote out the pedigree. Francis Reynolds enjoyed a pension of £100 a year from the King, which pension was continued to his great-niece Dorothy, who died unmarried, after which it dropped.

'Edmund Reynolds, Gent., Anne Reynolds, Spinster, and Walker a poor woman,' returned as Papists at Cassington³.

Writing about the year 1718, Rawlinson⁴ says, 'Cassington, Duke of Marlboro' bought this manor of Arncott, Esqre. Patrons are Ch. Ch., Oxford, who are the Impropietors, lease it out to Mr. Reynolds.'

When and to whom the property in Cassington was sold is uncertain, but until this day the name of Reynolds is remembered there; people still say the 'Romans lived there.' The remnant of the old chapel still exists in the attic at 'Reynolds'; the usual long room and remains of altar-rails, &c., were to be seen in 1896, when the present writer visited the place.

At Pinhoe the Reynolds family continued to dwell in the same old house until about 1898, when the property was sold by the then owner, Mr. Ashwood-Reynolds, and the purchaser pulled down the old place in the above year.

¹ *Boscobel*, pp. 47, 132.

² Wood, *Life and Times*, vol. ii, p. 241.

³ *Stonyhurst MS.*, 1705-6.

⁴ MSS., B 400 f.

WOLVERCOTE

Edmund Reynolds, of Gloucester Hall, left a farm at Wolvercote to his sister's son, Mathew Cheriton. This farm adjoined the churchyard.

'Michel Cole Firmae terr' Mathew Cheriton in Wolvercote; £ 10. 0s. 0d.¹

Close to the monument of Edmund Reynolds was another slab with effigy in brass and shields.

'Here lieth Avis, the wife of Mathew Cheriton, Esqre. She deceased 23 June, 1636, aet. 36².'

Mathew Cheriton's second wife was a Boswell, as we learn from her will. The Boswells were lords of the Manor of Westcote Barton for 150 years. They were from Yorkshire, and settled in Oxford; one of them was a member of the 'London Chapter.' The family received a grant of arms in 1638³.

'A. D. 1680-1, Dr. William Bosville, a lawsuit against Edward Bosville about land in Stanton-Harcourt.'

At St. Gregory's, Downside, Bath, among the MSS. is preserved the will on parchment of Mrs. Jaine (*sic*) Cheryton, of Wolvercott, Oxfordshire, second wife and widow of Mr. Cheryton, of the same place. Bequests are made to the poor of Wolvercott and of St. Giles's parish in the suburbs of the city of Oxon.; to her father; her brother, Edward Boswell; to her sister; to her mother, Bridget Wilson, widow; to her trusty servant, Anne Fletcher; to others for rings; to her son-in-law, Reynold Cheriton, &c. From the same source it would seem that the family removed later to Tiddington in Rowington, co. Gloucester. Two members of the family 'from Oxfordshire' became Benedictine monks.

'Professed at the Monastery of St. Edmund the King at Paris: 1651, June 24th, Dom. Basil Cheriton, of Oxfordshire.

Anno 1662, May 11th, at Paris, died F. Basil Cheriton, one who had a natural aversion to all manner of flesh-meats.

Professed at the Monastery of Dieulevart in Lorraine, 1656. Dom. Mathew Cheriton, of Oxfordshire⁴. Died in the Northern Province, 1670, Jan. 30.

¹ In *Quietus Roll*, u. s.

² Wood MSS., E 1.

³ For Boswell, see Wood's *Life and Times*, vol. ii, p. 402, and Davenport's *Sheriffs of Oxfordshire*, p. 68, and 111th

Report Hist. MSS., App. ii, p. 266; also *Memorials of Westcote Barton*, by the Rev. E. Marshall.

⁴ Weldon's *Notes*.

BEGBROKE

The little sequestered village of Begbroke has within the last few years experienced a new departure in its history. From the early days of English history the Manor of Begbroke had never been under ecclesiastical superiors, and the advowson to its church had always been in the hands of laymen. This old status was about to be changed when in the year 1895 a charitably disposed gentleman, at present unknown to us, placed a sum of money in the hands of the Servite Fathers in London to provide them a new site somewhere in the country. At that time Begbroke Manor was in the market, and after due consideration the Superior, weighing its advantages in his eyes against the attractions of other places, chose this quiet secluded spot for his purchase.

The old Manor House, with fifteen acres of beautifully timbered ground, was bought and accommodation provided for fifteen young men students. The Monastery was inaugurated on the 5th January, 1897. The pleasure of their home-coming was, however, marred by the unfortunate death of one of the students by drowning soon after the house was opened.

Soon it was found necessary to provide a chapel for their members, so Mr. Leonard Stokes, of Westminster, was entrusted with the commission for building. The new chapel was formally opened upon the 8th November, 1899, the sermon upon the occasion being preached by Monsignor Croke Robinson, whose father had formerly owned the house.

The place is now known as St. Philip's Priory, and services in the chapel are open to any visitors who may chance to pass. An account of the opening of the new buildings will be found in *Jackson's Journal*, and the *Oxford Times*, Nov. 11, 1899.

A new cemetery was consecrated for the use of the Monks in June, 1903.

KIDLINGTON

The only notice extant of Catholics in Kidlington in 1706, is the name of James Palmer, probably a member of the family of that name at Noke.

Later on a branch of the Phillips of Tetsworth settled here. John Phillips, son of Thomas of Worminghall, married a daughter of Martin May, and rented a tenement in the village. It is likely that

he was an innholder, as the leases of the old house, once the Crown Inn, are in his name; and he was followed in the same by Richard Hudson. The tombstones in the church to both these families are marked by a cross and R.I.P. Richard Hudson married a daughter of Phillips, and we know certainly that he kept a Catholic school.

Hearne tells us in his *Diary*, August, 1717, that,

‘At Kidlington, four miles from Oxford, lives one Mr. Hudson, a Papist, who teaches School. He hath several gentlemen’s sons. He hath lived there about three years. He is said to be a good Grammarian, tho’ not much of a Scholar. He is married and hath a daughter about 16 years of age. This Hudson lived once in the late Lord Leinster’s family and instructed the present Lord Leinster a youth, but it was always in the Father’s sight. The father would often be rough with his son and fling a book at his head.’

In November the same year Richard Hudson wrote to Hearne to get him, at the lowest price, a good dictionary, grammar, and other school-books. ‘I will,’ says he, ‘send either my wife or son on Saturday next to you with the money, because I am not willing to be taken too much notice of.’

Hearne answers that he has spoken to a bookseller about the books. Thinks Cole’s dictionary the best for young beginners, and has ordered it to be ready, with the other books, by Saturday next¹.

One of the scholars at Hudson’s school is doubtless the occupant of a grave amongst the Phillips family in the church:—

‘Charles Smith, aged 9, 2nd son of Francis Smith of Aston, co. Shropshire, died 1722.’

This Francis Smith of Aston was a relative to Lord Carrington, who had a house at Ledwell, a few miles further upon the north road. We may easily suppose that Father Thomas Phillips, who lived at Heythrop from 1739 till 1753, would pay friendly visits to his Kidlington cousins.

The second and last Richard Hudson died in 1779, and after this we can trace no more².

In the early part of 1905 some Sisters of Providence from Gape in the Archdiocese of Auch, France, took a small house in Kidlington. Their Order was established for teaching and visiting the sick. At All Saints they were established at Woodstock in the house in the Market Place formerly the old Post Office. The Servite Fathers from Begbroke attend to their spiritual needs.

¹ See Hearne’s *Collections*, vol. vi, O. H. S., for pedigrees and tombstones of the above.

² See also *Three Oxfordshire Parishes*,

PART V. SECTION II

SANDFORD-ON-THAMES AND WATERPERRY

FAMILIES OF POWELL AND CURSON

SANDFORD-ON-THAMES

THIS pleasant village, so well known to all who frequent the Isis or its banks, was in mediaeval times the site of the Preceptory of the Knights Templars, subsequently of the Hospitallers, and then passed by purchase to a Welsh Catholic family, who there maintained a priest and chapel for two hundred years.

A pedigree, made out with the object of tracing various branches of kinship to Archbishop Chichele, introduces us to the family Appowell of Guernon, co. Cardigan.

Edmund Appowell came to Oxfordshire, and apparently married into a family well known in the neighbourhood, and settled at Sandford in 1542. The 35th year of Henry VIII finds him buying up much land, in and around Oxford, which was in the market, the property of lately dissolved monasteries.

‘Edmund Powell, 4th Nov., 33 Hen. 8. Farm of the Scite of the late Priory of the Carmelites, Oxford; Farm in Sandford, Oxford, late of the Monastery of Oseney; Farm of the Manor of Hynchwyk, Glos., &c., &c.

Farm of parcel of the Manor or late Preceptory of Sampford, Oxford, late of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, &c., &c., &c.¹’

Edmund Powell seems to have been known in the county previous to his purchase of lands. He acted as under-steward in 1537 at Ewelme, which was Crown property, and doubtless in way of business had ample opportunity for making advantageous bargains². The

¹ *Report of Deputy-Keeper of the Records*, 10-18, p. 255.

² See Napier's *Swincombe and Ewelme*, p. 205.

eldest granddaughter of this Edmund was the wife of William Napier, of Holywell, Oxford, consequently sister-in-law to George Napier the Martyr; and here it was, to their chapel at Sandford, part of the former church of the Knights, that his mangled remains were brought, upon the night of his execution, to be buried with all honour and devotion. Those who have read Lady G. Fullerton's beautiful story of *Rosemary* cannot fail to recall the scene at dead of night, when the muffled tread of the bearers is heard who carried the martyred form into the chapel and laid it before the altar. Such a description might well apply here.

Mrs. Napier had two brothers, Edmund and William Powell. Edmund lived at Sandford, and carried on the family through three more generations; William died a bachelor and was buried at Sandford. He appears to have held some place at Court, as he was styled 'the Courtier,' and he bought some Crown lands in Staffordshire. This was an estate near Tutbury, called Rolleston Park, and which carried with it its own rights of Keeper in the Forest of Needwood¹. This estate remained with the family, as we shall see later.

The elder brother, Edmund, married Winefred Throckmorton, and we find her a widow in 1653, and subject to all the annoyances of Parliamentary commissioners, etc. The house at Sandford was apparently let by the Commissioners, and she was living with her children in St. Giles's, Oxford.

'Claimant on the estate of Mrs. Powell, Recusant, 16th Feb. 1653. Foster, co. Oxford, complains that he is ordered by Commissioners of Sewers to pay two-thirds of repairs of breaches of the Thames adjoining the estate of Mrs. Powell at Sandford, of which two-thirds he is tenant at a rack-rent.'

'Winefred Powell, widow, Saundford, John Powell her son, and the claimants on her estate. 8th Dec. 1653. John Spicer of Grey's Inn, and George Cole of London, beg reference to Counsel of their claims to discharge of Sandford Manor House and other lands demised to them 1st Oct. 1653, by John Powell for 21 years at a peppercorn rent, for payment of debts with interest, but sequestered for recusancy of Winefred, mother of John Powell who has no interest therein. 7th Sept. 1654. The claim cannot be allowed on the present proof, but the Powells are to be examined as to Winefred's interest therein and how she got possession of the estate, and the County Commissioners to return the examination in three weeks. 10th Oct. Petition renewed for discharge, it appearing on examination that Winefred never had any interest in the land. 10th Oct.

¹ Shaw's *History of Staffordshire*, vol. i, pp. 58 and 60.

Discharge granted with arrears out of other sequestered money in his hands : granted. 13 Jan. 1654. Winefred Powell begs to contract on the late Recusants Act for two-thirds of her sequestered estate¹.

Wood records the death and funeral of Mrs. Powell; she was buried in Sandford church in 1667². Two of her daughters died in 1703, Mrs. Mary Powell and Mrs. Winefred White³.

John Powell, her son, married Catherine Petre, and became the father of Edmund and John; he died at Tusmore in 1678, and was brought to Sandford for burial. The eldest son, Edmund, married Anne, sister to the fourth Lord Dormer, and being left a widow early she married again with Sir John Curson of Waterperry. This Edmund died during his father's lifetime; his brother John succeeded to the estate, and marrying Anne Wyndham he left two daughters co-heiresses—Winefred, the wife of Sir Francis Curson, and Catherine, married to Henry Roper, tenth Lord Teynham; of them and their estates we shall treat under Waterperry.

Recusants, 'John Powell and Anne his wife of Sandford⁴.' Also three families of labourers and three servants.

'John Powell of Sandford Esqre, Life estate subject to leases granted by John Powell his father and Edmund Powell his late brother, Gregory Peck and 18 other tenants; also £5 a year for tithes from Sir John Curzon out of lands the jointure of Dame Anne his wife and widow of his said brother, £395 5s. od.⁵'

He is also returned for a house in Kennington, Berks., just across the river, £8 os. od. He seems to have lived sometimes at Tutbury, the property of his uncle William.

The *Gentleman's Magazine*, May, 1815, says:—

'Sir William Powell, of Tutbury and Rolleston Park, left both these estates to Powell of Sandford, and upon the death in 1730 of John Powell, Rollestone Park was assigned to Catherine Roper, and her grandson, Lord Teynham, possesses it. Tutbury is a mile from Rollestone. It is the seat of John Powell, great-nephew to Sir William Powell, Knt., Courtier in the time of King James, of whose son, I take it, he purchased the Park and made it his seat.'

The Sandford estate passed to Lady Curzon, whose marriage settlement was made shortly before her father's death, 1729-30. She sold it in 1760.

Hearne, the antiquary, used to call upon Mr. Powell in the rambles

¹ *Calendar of Commissioners for Compounding*, Part iv, p. 3085 and p. 3166.

² *Life and Times*, vol. ii, p. 123.

³ Cath. Reg. of Waterperry.

⁴ *Stonyhurst MS.*, 1706.

⁵ *Cosin's List*, 1716.

he made around Oxford, but seems to have found him rather uncommunicative, so tells us little about him.

1722. 'June 9. Yesterday in my walks I called upon my friend John Powell, Esqre, of Sandford. Mr. Powell told me Ant. à Wood used sometimes to call at his house to enquire of him about antiquities.'

1727. 'Crossing the Sandford Ferry I walked to Mr. Powell's, but I did not speak with him as I designed, he being private in a room by himself taking a knap; tho' his lady being in the country, Worcestershire, where she hath been at least two months, I looked upon this as the most proper time for some conversation with Mr. Powell, who is a very worthy good man and much beloved¹.'

A propos of his lady being away so long, she must have been in her last illness; she died in November this year, and he in August, 1730².

A CHAPLAIN.

We have only the name of one Chaplain at this place, and that we only know from his own will—the Rev. Charles Collingwood, seventh son of George Collingwood, of Eslington, Northumberland. His eldest brother, George, suffered the last penalty at Liverpool for having taken part in the Jacobite rising in 1715. The Rev. Charles, as well as his brother Robert, entered the Society of Jesus, and was Prefect in the College at St. Omer's in 1696. About the year 1701 he came to Oxfordshire, and appears to have remained here until his death. An annuity was settled upon the two Jesuit brothers out of the estate at Eslington of £20 per annum. His will is entered in the *10th Report Hist. MSS.* as of 'Charles Collingwood of Sandford, co. Oxon., gent. Sole Deviser and executor Christopher Midcalf of Drury Lane, gent., and in default of him his brother Thomas. 22nd Jan. 1718–19.' His death is entered in the Catholic Register of Waterperry, 'Mr. Charles Collingwood dyed 26 Jan.,' and the Parish Register of Sandford says, 'he was buried 28th Jan. 1718³.'

Extracts from the Catholic Register of Waterperry, relating to Sandford:—

'The two sisters Mrs. Mary Powell and Mrs. Winefred White, died on the 14th and 17th April 1703.

Mrs. Anne Powell died 7th Nov. 1727.

John Powell, Esq., died 12th August 1730.

Anne Yeatman died 11th Oct. 1768.'

¹ Hearne, ed. Bliss.

² Cath. Reg. of Waterperry.

³ See Oliver, *Biog. S.J.*; and Payne's *Non-jurors*; Foley, vol. vii.

In a list of Recusants in *Calendar for Compounding*, Part V, p. 3197, we find the name of James Yateman, Sandford, Oxon.; and in the Parish Register of Sandford occurs 'Mr. James Y^eatman, buried 17 May, 1665.'

It is most probable that the Franciscans served the Mission after this time. They were much indebted to the Powells, who established their House at Rollestone near Tutbury, and several of the Powells belonged to the Order. Precise information is wanting to us.

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS IN SANDFORD CHURCH.

The chief monument is on the south wall of the Chancel, and is to Sir William Powell of Rollestone, Knt., who died in the 82nd year of his age, 1656. The monument was placed to his memory by John Powell his nephew, 1661¹.

On the floor of the Chancel is a slab to John Powell, Esq., died 19th Sept., 1678; another to Anne Betham, widow of Richard Betham, and daughter to Edmund Powell of this place; she died 28th Feb., 1692, aged 86. Besides these there is a slab to the memory of two sons and two daughters of Mr. John Powell, the last of the family.

'The arms of Powell are: Or; a lion rampant sable, debruised by a fesse engrailed gules; crest; an arm in armour holding a curved sword².' In Hearne's *Ectypa*, pp. 38, 40, 41, are views of the Manor House at Sandford, taken in 1722.

WATERPERRY

CURSON FAMILY.

Waterperry, a manor belonging to the Cursons from the fifteenth century, has remained intimately connected with Catholicity down to the beginning of the present century. The Cursons intermarried with the principal Recusant families of the county, and their house seems to have been one of the chief and most reliable centres for the Jesuit Missionaries. Immediately before the dissolution of the Monasteries, Walter Curson of Waterperry, gentleman, bequeathed a legacy to the Grey Friars in Oxford³. This was in all probability one out of four,

¹ Hearne's *Collections*, O.H.S., vol. ii, p. 397.

² Wood's MSS., E.

³ *Grey Friars*, O.H.S., p. 108.

as the common custom of the day was to leave something to each of the four orders of Friars—Franciscans, Dominicans, Carmelites, and Austins, and in the church of these latter he and his wife were buried. The monumental brass and slab, and presumably the bodies, were removed to Waterperry Church, where they now repose. The family were also possessed of property at Addington, Bucks., and Richard, the son of Walter, lived and brought up his family there. This place they afterwards sold to Sir John Busby. Richard's grandson, Sir John Curson of Waterperry, was living in the time of the Commonwealth, and his second son, William, was 'out' in the royal cause.

'11 Jan. 1642, from Sir Robert Heath to Prince Rupert. Letter touching the complaint of Edmund Barton and John Pierce of Farington, Glos.; that two horses have been taken from each of them by Mr. William Curzon, said to be a trooper in his Highness' service¹.'

Curson was again complained of for horse-lifting, and appears to have had little scruple in serving himself, following the way of the times.

'William Curzon of Water Perry, co. Oxford. 21 June 1650. Information that he was an Officer in the King's army, rode with others to Northleach, Glos., and fetched out the horse of Henry Freeman, a Parliament soldier at Cirencester, and carried it away for the King's service, a month before Prince Rupert took Cirencester. Information that Sir Sam. Luke owes him £200².'

One of the daughters of this Sir John Curson married Anthony Belson, of Stokenchurch; another was 'stolen away' by William Gadbury, farmer, of Wheatley, and became the mother of the famous John Gadbury, the almanack maker. The third son, Thomas, succeeded his father, and was made a Baronet in 1661; he lived another twenty years, and his widow survived until 1690, when she died in the house of Mr. White in St. Aldate's, Oxford³.

They left only one son, Sir John, who, from a remark of Wood's⁴, would seem to have been only a Catholic in secret. 'Sir Thomas Curzon of Waterperry died leaving issue only one son John, who marrying Penelope Child of Worcester, a Papist, he himself soon after turned Papist.' Five sons were born from this marriage; Francis, the eldest survivor, succeeded to the estate; four died unmarried, and the

¹ 9th Report Hist. MSS., 2nd part, p. 435 a.

² Calendar for Advance of Money, Part iii, p. 1241.

³ Wood, *Life and Times*, vol. iii, p. 333.

⁴ u. s., vol. iii, p. 2.

fifth, Sir Peter, fourth Bart., was a Jesuit Father and for many years Chaplain to Mr. Wells, of Brambridge near Winchester, where he died in 1766, aged 79¹. Two daughters were married—Catherine to John Vaughan, of Courtfield, Monmouth, Esq.; and Mary to John Brinkhurst, of the Moor, Bucks., Esq., whose daughter eventually owned Waterperry.

After the death of his first wife, Sir John Curson married the widow of Edmund Powell of Sandford.

Rawlinson tells us² that 'Sir John Curzon upon rebuilding of his house in 1713 discovered several coffins under the foundations, one of which was covered with black velvet, and in it a candlestick and crucifix of silver.' Souvenir of the dark days when Chaplains were laid where they fell!

Sir Francis Curson, who succeeded to the title in 1727, had lived during his father's lifetime at Great Milton in the house near the church, which was once the Zouches³. At the same time he was registered as of Waterperry in Cosin's *List*, 1715: 'Francis Curson of Waterperry, £300' (for his father's registration, see Sandford), Sir Francis married twice, first, Elizabeth Knollys, who had an only son, who died in his fifteenth year at St. Omer⁴; and second, Winefred Powell, niece to his father's second wife. Sir Francis died without children in 1750, his widow in 1764⁵. Upon Lady Curson's death there appears to have been a sale of furniture at the house. A letter dated 1st May, 1765, from a Jesuit Father to Father Pole, the Chaplain at Waterperry, says, 'A "new shop" is begun to be built, for which a friend of Father Pole's wished to buy the vestments from Waterperry, if to be sold⁶.' The 'new shop' was the Catholic chapel at Worcester. The probabilities are the vestments were not sold, as the chapel at Waterperry continued for long after.

The family of Curson in this line becoming extinct by the death of Sir Francis, the baronetcy expired⁷. The descent of the property under the will of Sir Francis was as follows:—

'Sir Francis Curson by his will dated 1749 devised the Waterperry estate (1) to his wife for life; (2) to his niece Catherine Brinkhurst; (3) to

¹ Foley, vol. vii.

² *Rawlinson MSS.*, B 400 f, Waterperry; also Skelton's *Oxfordshire*.

³ *Some Account of Great Milton*, p. 33, by T. Ellis, Vicar.

⁴ Dr. Lee's *Thame Church*, p. 595.

⁵ See dates from Catholic Register of Waterperry.

⁶ Foley, vol. v, p. 860.

⁷ The inscriptions to the Cursons in the church may be found in *Rawlinson MSS.*, B 400 b.

John Barnwell, son of his niece Frances Barnwell; (4) to the said Frances Barnwell; (5) to his niece Lady Gaydon; (6) to John Belson of Brill, co. Bucks, Esq. (a descendant probably of his aunt Elizabeth, wife of Aug. Belson, the last five devises being for life, with remainder in tail male; and (7) to his own right heirs; directing each person to assume the name of Curson. The three ladies above-mentioned were daughters of testator's sister Mary, by John Brinkhurst. . . . It is not very clear how John Barnwell-Curson (who apparently was, under the terms of the above will, only a tenant for life with remainder in tail male) was able to dispose of the Waterperry estates under his will, dated 1780 and proved 1787, in favour of Henry Francis Roper, his first cousin once removed; this however he did, and the devise took effect in 1787, one Thomas Riley, born March 1771 (probably an illegitimate son of the testator), who was placed before him, having died in the testator's lifetime ¹.

See also *3rd Series*, vol. ii, p. 80, where it is shown that John Barnwall-Curson obtained an Act of Parliament in 1777 to enable him to make a jointure upon a wife; he, however, never married. Henry Roper was in no way descended from the Cursons. J. Barnwall-Curson being the last living representative, and having remained unmarried himself, had the power to bequeath the estate to whomsoever he willed. He died Aug. 19, 1787 ².

Under the will of 1749, Henry Francis Roper, by royal licence, took on 22nd Feb., 1788, the name and arms of Curson only, as directed by that gentleman's will; by another royal licence, upon becoming the absolute owner of the estate, he took the name of Curson, in addition to and after the name of Roper, 22nd June, 1813.

In 1824 he succeeded to the Peerage as Baron Teynham. He sold the estate about the year 1830, and died March 8, 1842. The house was probably let to Mr. Henley from the year 1813, as the Churchwardens' accounts mention his payment of certain dues from that time.

Henry Roper-Curson, fourteenth Baron Teynham, married Bridget, daughter of Thomas Hawkins, Esq., of Nash Court, Kent ³. Their eldest child was born in Marylebone Parish, London, in 1789. Seven were born at Waterperry, and registered in the Catholic Register between the years 1790 to 1800; then two more in Marylebone, in 1804 and 1805 two more at Waterperry, 1807 one at Clifton, 1808

¹ From *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, Third Series, Sept., 1895, by J. J. Howard, vol. i, part vii, p. 217.

² See *Catholic Directory*, for his death.

³ For this family see Foley, vol. iv, p. 700.

one at Bath, and in 1810-11 one at Waterperry, registered in the Parish Church.

The Catholic Register contains the following entries of this family:—

‘Mr. Brinkhurst died Dec. 10, 1701.

Mrs. Mary Brinkhurst ye younger July 17, 1710.

John Brinkhurst, Esq., died July 20, 1726.

Mrs. Mary Bartlet died May 11, 1727 (probably the only child of Katherine Curson and John Vaughan).

Sir John Curson died March 23, 1727.

Mr. Robert Curson died March 23, 1743-4.

Lady Curson, sen., died Oct. 12, 1746.

Sir Francis Curson, Bart., died May 29, 1750.

Lady Curson died April 2, 1764.

Lady Teynham moritur March 16, 1771.

Mrs. Catherine Brinkhurst-Curson died Aug. 3, 1776.

Mrs. Frances Cusack died at Furr hall in Essex, Nov. 30, 1778, in the 66th year of her age¹.

Mr. George Curzon died 1829, aged 24².

BAPTISMS FROM THE SAME REGISTER.

‘Thomas Curson, son of Henry Curson, Esq., of Waterperry, and of Bridget his Lady, born Nov. 25, 1790, bap. Nov. 27th. G. F. and G. M. Mr. Thomas Hawkins of Nash Court, Esq., and Lady Petre.

Francis Curson, son of the same, was born on the 7th April, 1794, and bap. on the 9th. G.F. by proxy, C. Leslie; G.M. by proxy, Mrs. Hawkins of Nash Court. Child since dead.

Feb. 4, 1796. I baptised Julia, dau. of Henry Curson, of Waterperry, Esq., and Bridget his wife. G.F. by proxy, C. Leslie, that is myself. G.M. Miss Mary Hawkins. The said Julia was born on the 2nd day of Feb.

Jan. 15, 1767. Bap. by me Caroline, daug. of Henry Curson of Waterperry, Esq., and of Bridget his wife. G.F. C. Leslie; G.M. Mrs. Hawkins of Nash Court, Kent.

Sep. 27, 1798. Baptised George Henry Curson, son of Henry Curson of Waterperry, Esq., and of Bridget his wife, born the preceding night. Sponsors C. Leslie and Mrs. Hawkins of Nash Court, the child's grandmother. The real sponsor was Sir Thomas Webb, Bart., who promised by letter to Mrs. Curson that he would see his obligations punctually fulfilled.’

¹ Mrs. Cusack was sister to Catherine Brinkhurst-Curson; she married Thomas Barnwall, and secondly Christopher

Cusack.

² This last from *Catholic Directory*.

PRIESTS AT WATERPERRY.

Waterperry, being one of the oldest Jesuit stations in Oxfordshire of the year 1620, is supposed to have had a resident priest from a very early date. According to Foley, it is possible that Father Edward Walpole was placed here by Father Gerard, who says:—

‘Amongst the families who came to the determination to follow the example of the Vaux of Harrowden in the religious mode of life which he, Father Gerard, had established among them, providing altar, chapel and room for a priest, was a certain lady near Oxford whose husband was indeed a Catholic but overmuch devoted to worldly pursuits.’

Of this we have no further evidence, but coming to the date of the Revolution, 1688, and the breaking up of the Catholic establishment in Oxford, it seems probable that one Jesuit Father settled at Waterperry.

The first name we can be sure of is Father Henry Stanley, and it is only through the accident of his will being preserved that we know that he was here.

‘Henry Stanley (Rev'd.) of Waterperry, Oxon., gent.; Devisee, etc. Charles Sherburne of St. Giles' Middlesex, gent. 3rd June 1742¹.’

‘Henry Stanley the elder, was born in Lancashire, 11 Sep. 1688, and was admitted into the Order in 1706. Professed 18 years later. For many years he served the Oxfordshire Mission where he died 27 Nov. 1753².’

But Foley says he died at Culceth Hall, Lancashire, upon the same date. He was the son of a Miss Culceth, and assumed her name as an alias.

In 1750 Father Thomas Brooke of Tusmore baptized a child here.

In 1752 Father Francis Pole appears at Waterperry.

Will of ‘Francis Pole, Rev'd., of Waterperry Oxon., Devisees and Executors Mr. Philip Carteret of St. Giles' in the Fields and Mr. Cornelius Morphy of St. George's, Hanover Square. 29th Jan. 1752³.’

He survived the making of his will several years.

‘Francis Pole the younger, born 15th Dec. 1711; at the age of 17 became a Novice and eighteen years later a Professed Father. He ended his days at Sarnesfield, in the co. of Hereford, 23rd Dec. 1767⁴.’

It does not appear when Father Pole left, but he was at Water-

¹ 10th Report Historical MSS.; original preserved at Stonyhurst.

² *Biography of Jesuits*, Oliver.

³ *Historical MSS.*, u. s.

⁴ *Biography*, u. s.

perry in 1761, when he stood godfather to a child, and probably baptized it.

The first notice of his successor occurs in November, 1765, when Mr. Woods baptizes. He remained some time, and wrote down some items recorded by the transcriber of the Register, but so far we cannot identify him.

Father Ralph Hoskins, S.J., born in Maryland, 1729. After leaving Waterperry in 1766, he spent many years with the Lawsons at Brough, Yorkshire, where he died in 1794¹.

'William Nelson, late Chaplain of this house, died 11 July 1770, aged 58, and was buried at Waterperry².'

He is buried in the church: the Parish Register has:—

'1770, Mr. William Nelson a Priest of the Church of Rome, was buried July 16th.'

'William Nelson³ born in Ireland 20 April 1714. His family name was O'Neil. This worthy Father died at Waterperry, in Oxfordshire, 11 July 1770. Soc. 58.'

He was in 1743 Confessor to the nuns of Hoogsteete⁴. There is a tradition at Buckland in the Throckmorton family of an 'O'Neil Library' there.

In 1773, Father John Butler of Tusmore. In January, 1775, the Register is signed by F. Green, of Tusmore, and in April by J. Lewis, whom I fail to identify.

These few years were very unsettled times for the Chaplains at Waterperry; we find the four following Benedictines here:—

1772-3. 'Dom Bernard, Daniel Young. Professed at Lambspring, died at Welshpool, 1801. Removed to Hartpury, Gloucester⁵.

1773-4. Dom Jerome, John Berry or Butler. Professed at Dieulward. Died in Lancashire, 1792⁶.

1773-4. Dom Anselm, John Geary. Professed at Lambspring, removed to Wiltshire⁷. He served Leighland for some time: died at Bath 23rd March, 1795, aged 82.'

In March, 1777, Father Joseph Closette, S.J., was here and continued until January, 1779.

'Joseph Closette born in Flanders, but educated entirely amongst the English Jesuits. Soon after his ordination he was ordered to Wardour, but melancholy to relate, he was suddenly killed at Ludwell, near there,

¹ *Gillow's Dict.*

² Waterperry Catholic Register.

³ *Biography*, u.s., Irish Province.

⁴ Foley, *Records*, vol. vii, p. 539.

⁵ See Oliver's *Collections*, p. 443.

⁶ *Necrology*, O. S. B.

⁷ u.s., p. 312.

by a fall from his horse, about three weeks after his arrival. This happened on 23rd Oct. 1781, in the 30th year of his age; he was buried in Tisbury Church¹.

Father Peter Jenkins, S.J., from 1780 till circa 1785.

‘Peter Jenkins, born at Sutton near Guildford, 21 Sept. 1735; joined the Order in 1753: made his religious Profession 2nd Feb. 1771. During his long missionary life he had been successively stationed at Waterperry, etc. He died suddenly at Bury St. Edmunds, 14 July, 1818, aged 83, and was buried near its chapel².’

December, 1785, Father Peter Westby, S.J. His name only appears once in the Register, and he probably was only on a passing visit on his way north.

‘Peter Westby, alias Walker, born at Preston 20 May 1727; admitted to the Order at the age of 22. Professed 2nd Feb. 1767; succeeded the Rev. Thomas Weldon, S.J., at Scholes; but died there two years later, viz. 14 Nov. 1788, and was buried at Windleshaw³.’

1789. The Rev. James Taylor was here in December. Probably a Secular priest; he appears at Heythrop in 1795 for a few months.

The last and best-known Chaplain of Waterperry, Father Charles Leslie, S.J., first signed his name to the Register in November, 1790. He continued here until having built the Chapel in St. Clement’s, Oxford, and serving both places on alternate Sundays, he finally left for the new house, leaving ‘half a dozen Catholics at Waterperry and finding about three score at Oxford.’

‘Patrick the 21st Baron Balquhair and Count of the Holy Roman Empire was the father of the two Jesuit Fathers Charles and James Leslie, who served the Oxford Mission. Charles was the younger brother, James succeeded him for a short time⁴.’

THE CATHOLIC REGISTER OF WATERPERRY

is still kept at St. Aloysius’s Church, Oxford. It is a mean-looking little book, such as used for keeping accounts. It is entitled:—

‘The Waterperry Chappel Register and
likewise Oxford, being the same
Congregation or Mission.’ 1st Volume.

The book opens with the list of persons belonging to the Con-

¹ *Biography*, u. s.

² *Biography*, u. s.

³ *Foley*, and *Biography*, u. s.

⁴ *Burke’s Landed Gentry*, Sup. 202.

raternity of 'Bona Mors'—Sir F. and Lady Curson, Miss Catherine Brinkhurst, the list apparently of the household servants, and Mr. Pandolphus Collins¹.

Then we have the visits for Confirmation of Bishop Hornyold in 1753, 1758, and 1763, candidates being sent from Brightwell and Dorchester. A Catalogue of the dead follows, beginning from 1700, and including the whole county. After this, the ordinary Parish Register, which is most useful, giving the names of many priests. In January, 1799, Father Hothersall from Thame was there. The Register closes on the 30th June, 1800. A connecting link between this Mission and the old state of things in Oxford is the Harding family. The Holywell Register records the death of Mr. Harding of Waterperry, 1739, and the Catholic Register here mentions the confirmation of Lucy Harding in 1753.

The following entry is a touching remembrance of the French Revolution. A noble family seeking the hospitality of England rested first on their journey at Winchester. The register of the Catholic Mission in that city records that on the 15th of Dec., 1793, was born, and baptized the following day, a daughter to the Most Noble Marquis of Kerampuil and his wife Maria Julia de la Boissière.

The sponsors were the Marquis de la Nascol and Marchioness de Beaucour, represented by Lady Marie de la Boissière, Marchioness of Goësbriand². After this they seem to have come to Oxford, and another birth is registered at Waterperry.

'Die 29 Ap. anni 1797 Baptizavi Mariam Julianam Annam filiam pre-nobilis Domini Caroli Mariae Francisci Saisi Comititis de Kerampuil et pre-nobilis Dominae Mariae Juliae de la Boissière Comitesses de Kerampuil conjugis, natus eodem die. Patrenus fuit Petrus Maria de Saisi Eques de Kerampuil. Matrena vero Marcella Julia Francisca Marchionessa de la Nascol. C. Leslie.'

¹ Mr. Randolph Collins died 1795:
Catholic Directory.

² See 1st vol. 'Catholic Record Society,' p. 184, pub. 1905.

PART V. SECTION III

HOLYWELL, NEAR OXFORD; IFFLEY

FAMILIES OF NAPIER, PITTS



THE MANOR OF HOLYWELL, OXFORD

To all who follow the story of Catholicism in Oxford, and whose sympathies go forth towards those who in private and in public have upheld the Faith committed to them, this little corner of our city must ever be sacred.

Here it was that George Napier, the best known of our Oxford martyrs, received his birth and home training, and here the sanctuary lamp was kept burning after all seemed lost and hopeless in the city itself.

Holywell Manor early in the sixteenth century was leased by Merton College to one William Clare, a well-to-do grazier, who was already settled here in 1532¹, and was one of the bailiffs of the city.

Upon his death, his widow married Edward Napier from Dorsetshire, one of a family descended from the Napiers of Merchiston in Scotland. He was a Fellow of All Souls. Edward Napier married a second time, to Anne, sister to Cardinal Peto the Franciscan, and she was the mother of his children. Upon Napier's death in 1558, she remarried with Philip Huckle, of Merton College, who, according to Hearne², was of the same trade with his predecessor, William Clare, a 'butcher' or grazier, a worthy man, leasing a large estate, part of which was Holywell Manor, from Merton College. He it was who built the Manor House, part of which we still see, and it was unfinished at his death. Both he and his wife died between the years

¹ See *Grey Friars*, O.H.S.

² Vol. vi, p. 103, O. H. S.

1572 and 1576, when his will was proved. The two young Napiers, William and George, were naturally educated abroad; William was well known among the Jesuits, while George became a Secular priest, or 'Seminarist' as they were then called.

Upon the death of his step-father Huckle, it seems that William renewed the lease of Holywell from Merton, and we find that he was well settled there before Elizabeth's reign was over. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Edmund Powell of Sandford, and during his married life proved an active and constant friend to his co-religionists.

In a letter from Cardinal Allen to Mr. White, prisoner in the Tower, it is reported; 'For D. Walford he will be well provided for in Oxford with Mr. Napper a renowned and virtuous Catholic.' Further, on the landing at Plymouth of ten priests, one is alluded to as being consigned to Mr. Napper at Oxford, and Father Walford is said to have gone to him. 'Father Walford, Warford, or Warneford appears to have been at Oxford at Mr. Napper's, about 1591¹'

Wood tells us:—

'Mr. William Napier of Holywell, son of Edward Napier of the same place, had a farm house in Cowley near Oxon. To this house did belong a certain piece of ground, in a bogg, rather in a bottome, called (since as it seems) Hockley in the Hole. This piece of ground which is worth 4 li. a year, was by the saide William Napier let for many years to one . . . Badger, a mason living in St. Peter's in the East, and a Roman Catholic as Napier was; who built a house thereon, about the latter end of Queen Elizabeth for a hiding hole of a priest or any other lay-Catholic in times of persecution. Which continued so till about 1678; and then, falling to ruine, the house, stones and all were taken away and sold, 1684, Serjeant Richard Holloway being then the owner².'

Here then was the place of concealment for refugee 'Seminarists' committed to Mr. Napier's willing hands, and we may easily imagine his brother George frequenting this house the many months he passed in Oxford.

Blessed George Napier, martyr, was the younger brother of William Napier above-mentioned. To the account given of him in Challoner's *Missionary Priests* we may add the following taken from the *History of Corpus Christi College* (O.H.S.³), of which College he had been a Fellow. At the period referred to, 1568, the headship of the

¹ Foley, vol. iv, p. 574.

² *Life and Times*, O. H. S., vol. iii, p. 122.

³ pp. 126-7.

College became vacant. Catholic influence was very strong in the house, and was brought to bear by several Catholic Fellows at the election of the new President. The Protestant party appealed to the Queen and the elected President was set aside. Inquiry being thereupon made, several of the Fellows—Miles Windsore, Edmund Reynolds, and George Napier among them—were expelled the College.

‘As to George Napier, he went beyond the seas, where spending some time in one of the English Colleges that was about those times erected¹, he came again into England, and lived as a Seminary priest among his relations, sometimes in Halywell near Oxford, and sometimes in the country near adjoining, among those of his profession. At length being taken at Kertlington and examined by one Chamberlayne, a Justice of the Peace, he was taken before Sir Francis Eure or Evers, of Heyford Warren, who treated him with great kindness, and gave him food and lodging, and the next day was sent prisoner to the Castle of Oxford, and the sessions after, being convicted of Treason, was on the 9th Nov. 1610, hanged. The next day his head and quarters were set upon the four Gates of the city and upon that great one belonging to Christ Church next to St. Aldate’s Church, to the great terror of the Catholicks that were in and near Oxford. He was much pitied for that his grey hairs² should come to such an end and lamented by many that such rigour should be shewn on an innocent and harmless person. No great danger in him (God wot) and therefore not to be feared but being a Seminary, and the Laws against them now strictly observed, an example to the rest must be shewed. Some if not all of his quarters were afterwards conveyed away by stealth and buried at Sandford near Oxford, in the old chapel there, joining to the Manor House, sometime belonging to the Knights Templars.’

The account given in Challoner of his imprisonment and execution is from an eye-witness and fellow prisoner. He mentions the urgent and repeated applications for reprieve made by Mr. Napier’s relations, and how when the last night on earth arrived he made a supper for his friends and ate with them, one of his sisters bringing him a dish of sweetmeats. He suffered at last on the 9th November, 1610, in the afternoon, having celebrated Mass, and preserving his fast to the last.

Let us now return to Mr. William Napier. He left four sons, of all of whom we are able to give some account. Of Edmund, the eldest, we will speak last. The second and third sons went to

¹ Challoner. He returned in 1603.

² At the time of his death his father had been dead fifty-two years. Mr.

Powell, of Sandford, was his brother-in-law. This chapel is now the barn.

Rome, and the Pilgrim Book of the Roman College tells us : ' Christopher and William Napier of Oxford, after a long quarantine at Civita Vecchia, dined in the Refectory, 27 Jan. 1632 ¹. ' William married ², and had a son of his own name ; Christopher died a bachelor in London. The fourth son, Thomas, had a farm at Temple Cowley, doubtless that which had belonged to his father, and we may suppose him to have carried on the same hospitable work of giving refuge to the hunted priests. He married Mary Collins of Cowley. Two of his sons and two grandsons served in the French army, and two more grandsons of the name of Crosby (see Weldon) became Religious, one a Benedictine and the other a Jesuit. Thomas Napier died in 1664, and was buried in a church in Worcester.

The eldest brother, Edmund, married Joyce Wakeman of Beckford, Gloucestershire ; he was succeeded at Holywell by his third son, George. Of the other five, Edward died unmarried, William and Charles became Franciscan Friars.

' William (Marianus) Nappier, alias Russell, a native of Oxford. He was tried and condemned for Oates's Plot and for priesthood but not executed. Continued in gaol when he was banished in 1684. Died in St. Bonaventure's Convent, Douai, O.S.F. 4 Oct., 1693, aged 74 ³.'

' Charles Napier, a Franciscan Friar living in Leicestershire in 1676. Died at Holt in co. Leicester, 17 Dec. 1678 ; and was buried in the church there ⁴.'

Francis Napier was a friend of Anthony Wood's, who often refers to their walks together ; he died a bachelor in the house of his grandfather Wakeman. Edmund Napier lived in a house which is now part of Nos. 63 and 64, St. Giles's ⁵.

Of the same Edmund, who was entered among the Jesuits, we have his own words :—

¹ Foley, vol. vi, p. 607.

² We cannot time the death of this William, but from the expression ' nepotis Gulielmi ' upon the monument to his nephew George, we may infer that he survived George and erected the monument.

³ Oliver's *Collections*, p. 565, and *Franciscans in England*, p. 277.

⁴ Wood, *Life and Times*, vol. i, in pedigree. Mrs. Neville of Holt was his niece.

⁵ These facts the author learnt from

a lecture upon the Quakers given in the Ashmolean, by Mr. Gillet, June 4, 1892. There was formerly a double entrance to these premises which led to several tenements. The premises were bought by the Quakers whilst William Penn was in Oxford, and their meeting-house, which was used until 1820 and still stands, was built at the back. It was in the present house that Cardinal Newman spent his last evening chatting with his friends, before making his abjuration at Littlemore.

'My name is Edmund Napier, born near Oxford, brought up at Holywell and lived under a schoolmaster until I was 17. I have two brothers Religious, one my senior, one my junior. I was sent to St. Omer's, aged 27 ¹.'

Ill health came upon him and after receiving Minor Orders,

. . . he returned from Rome 26th May 1656, dispensed from his oaths on account of lameness contracted through weakness which rendered him incapable of following his vocation ².'

Of his later life, Wood tells us, 'that he married his brother George's maid, whose brother Thomas Mitchell kept the Dolphin Inn in St. Mary Magdalen's parish; he was a Popish schoolmaster in that parish, died 22 Jan. 1685, and was buried in Holywell Chancel by his ancestors ³.' The Dolphin stood upon the site now No. 1, St. Giles's. It was there that Father Wolf died.

Mr. George Napier, the third son by birth, but who came to the estate, continued staunch to the Catholic faith, and his house continued to be frequented for religious purposes. A certain convert, a well-known schoolmaster named Richard Reeves, is mentioned in the *Athenae* as 'taking the Sacrament according to the Catholick way in the house of Mr. George Nappier of Holywell in 1667.'

This family, with most of their other co-religionists and co-royalists, suffered pecuniary troubles under the Commonwealth, and their property was sequestrated, the account of which is as follows:—

'Nov. 3, 1652. Edmund Napper or Napier; Recusant Holywell, Co. Oxon., aged 76, and George his son and executor.

Edmund Napper begs a seven years' lease of his estate in Oxford, two-thirds of which are sequestrated for his recusancy. The County Committee have let two-thirds for several years at £100 rent, but Richard Appletree has advanced it to £110; petitioner is willing to give as much as any one.

Nov. 3. The County Committee to act according to instructions.

Feb. 20, 1655. Edmund Napper begs allowance of reserved rents chargeable on lands and mills in Holywell and Woolvercot; also the site of the manor of Church Cowley, leased respectively to him by the Warden and scholars of Merton College and the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, Oxford.

Feb. 20. Referred to the County Committee.

¹ Foley.

³ *Life and Times*, vol. i, p. 193, and

² Vol. vi, p. 385, and vol. vii, p. 536. vol. iii, p. 124.

May 9. George Napper begs discharge of two-thirds of Holywell Manor and several messuages which by the death of Edmund Napper, his father, are descended to him, and begs payments of arrears due since his father's death.

May 9. Referred to the County Committee.

May 24. He begs discharge of the aforesaid reserved rents.

July 10. The rents due to Merton College and Christ Church allowed and to be paid by the County Commissioners, but payment of the rest suspended until further proof.

Lessee of and claimants on the Estates.

Oct. 10, 1654. John Whicker, merchant, of Seething Lane, London, begs a lease of the two-thirds sequestered for recusancy of the estate of George Napper in Oxfordshire, and an order to the County Commissioners to certify its yearly value.

Oct. 10. Certificate ordered as desired.

Feb. 20, 1655. Roger Gill of Holywell, begs discharge of two-thirds of a messuage and lands in Upper Woolvercot, co. Oxon., which Edmund Napper by indenture of 20 July 1643, in consideration of £200 granted to Petitioner and his heirs, and all arrears thereof.

Feb. 20, 1655. The County Committee to certify.

May 24, 1655. William Hitchcock and two others and George Napper beg discharge of two-thirds of the lands tithes, &c. In the city of Oxford which Napper by indenture of 16 May 1655 demised to the other petitioners, part of them for three lives and the remainder for 5 years, but which are sequestered for the recusancy of Edmund Napper, and notwithstanding his decease, are continued under sequestration¹.

'George Napper's estate is worth £45. Michael Chadwell's we have set at £124 besides taxes and it has been compounded for at £170².'

Lent money for King's service, 'Charles son of Edmund Napier £108.' List made out circa 1648³.

Aug. 6, 1650. Sir Robert Napier, M.P. London. Information that in 1642 and 1643 he deserted his service in the House, left Parliament quarters and went to Cowley or Holywell, Oxford, and remained there sometime, contrary to the Ordinances of Parliament.

'June 17, 1651, Thomas Napier of Cowley, Oxon., who was summoned as a witness has not appeared, &c. to answer for his contempt⁴.'

The Napiers, with very few exceptions, are buried in the chancel of Holywell Church, Oxford. Their arms were, a cross saltire, between four roses.

By his marriage with Margaret, heiress to Mr. Arden of Kirtlington, George Napier, who died in 1671, acquired a considerable fortune;

¹ *Calendar for Compounding*, part iv, p. 3057.

² *Ib.*, part i, p. 407.

³ *Committee for Advance of Money*, p. 999.

⁴ *Ib.*, p. 126c.

he was succeeded by the eldest of his three daughters, who was the wife of Mr. Neville of Holt and who carried to him the estates of both her father and of her mother. The house¹ was then occupied by Catholics of the name of Harding. Wood refers frequently to this family.

'Francis Harding, M.A., phisition of St. John's College, son of Thomas Harding of London, died at the Dolphin Inn in Magdalen Parish, 4 May 1683, buried in St. John's chapel, an excellent poet².'

Shortly after in

'March 1686, an ancient man and one of the King's chaplains came to Oxford and next day visited Obediah Walker. Said mass at Soladin Harding's by Holywell Church, where all papists there retired to do their devotions to him³.'

Soladin Harding died in 1684, and appears to have been succeeded in the house by Thomas Kimber, who acted as steward to the Manor under the Nevilles of Holt. In December, 1688, Wood writes about some raid made upon the Papists:—

'Thorpe at the Mitre secured . . . security given for his appearance by . . . Kimber and Charles Harding. This was in the morning and in the afternoon the rabble and boys to the number of 200 went to every popish house and broke the windows, at first the Mitre Inn where Thorpe lived, Kimber's in Holywell, widow Harding behind the church there, Earl's in St. Clement's, Charles Harding's in St. Tolls⁴.'

Again:—

'Oct. 14, 1695. Birthday of King James II, meeting of the Jacobites at Mistress Harding's house in Holywell; musick there and ringing of bells in the Church⁵.'

The *Stonyhurst MS.*, 1705-6, reports the names of 'Thomas Kimber senr. and his wife. Thomas Kimber junr. his wife and some children. Mr. Joyner—The widow Bustyn.'

In Cosin's *List*, 1715, we find: 'Thomas Kimber of Holywell in the suburbs of Oxford, yeoman; leasehold houses in Holywell and Littlemore. £47.'

In recent years the old house was used as the Parish Workhouse

¹ For the account of the old Manor House see Hearne's *Collections*, vol. iii, p. 402, O.H.S.

² *Life and Times*, vol. iii, p. 45.

³ *Ib.*, p. 182.

⁴ *Ib.*, p. 286.

⁵ *Ib.*, p. 491. Many references to these people are found in Hearne, vol. v.

until about 1837 when it was turned into three cottages, the largest one toward the north being a public-house known as the 'Cockpit,' from its adjoining the place where cocks were fought by the citizens of Oxford. Cock-fighting went on here well into the nineteenth century. When George IV was visiting at Nuneham he came over with a party of gentlemen to see the sport. Here the Court Leets continued to be held until 1869, when having dwindled down to a mere travesty of justice they were then abolished.

At the present time the old Manor has been restored and put to more worthy uses. A community of Anglican Sisters from Clewer have made a home there, and devote themselves to the work of reformation and charity.

The original 'Holy Well' which gave its name to the Manor was underneath the present Chapel; there still exists the oblong swimming-basin with steps descending into it, but the water was drawn off by the new city drainage works. Within the chamber is still preserved the old well-head, said to be of Saxon work. It is a stone cylinder in one piece.

WILLIAM JOYNER.

This is a suitable place to speak of a man who in his day was of some note among our Oxford Catholics. His family appears to have been in moderate circumstances in or near Oxford, and at Cuddesdon, for several generations.

In 1574 a Richard Joyner was Public Notary in Oxford¹, and persons of the name are met with at Thame, Dorchester, and Horspath, in which latter place they were of sufficient importance to warrant Dr. Plot inserting their coat-of-arms in his county map. Wood² gives us the pedigree of Joyner *alias* Lyde. The only member of the family of interest to our subject is William, nephew to Mr. Phillips of Ickford by a marriage between the families, by which William Joyner was great-uncle to Father Thomas Phillips, S.J.

William Joyner was born about 1622, was entered as Demy at Magdalen College in 1636, and became Fellow in 1642. Some few

¹ 5th Report Hist. MSS., p. 368.

² *Life and Times*, vol. iii, p. 259.

years after this, during the Commonwealth, he was turned out of his Fellowship and went abroad, where he was liberally entertained and patronized by people of rank, among whom it is stated that he spent some time with Abbot Walter Montague at the Abbey of St. Martin's, Pontoise¹. On his return he found himself in great poverty, and lived partly at Brill and partly at his brother's house at Horspath. Fortunately he made the friendship of Antony à Wood, who proved himself a steady friend in misfortune, as he did to many other Catholics in distress.

In December, 1678, rigorous search was made for Papists in Oxford, and Wood then writes:—

‘About a week before the search, Mr. Joyner, who left his religion in the late warr and became a Roman Catholic, but not in orders, lived very poor and had several contributions made to him from Magdalen College; but upon the late proclamation retiring to his brother's house at Horsepath was there taken, and, as 'tis said, upon the refusal of the Oath of Supremacy, was secured; but upon security given to appear at the Sessions next, he was released. This was done by the Vice-Chancellor's warrant, supposing him to have been a priest.’

The contributions of friends were received by Wood and regularly paid to Joyner until he was again in a position to keep himself².

In 1687, upon the remodelling of Magdalen College, King James signified his pleasure that Mr. William Joyner should be installed in the Fellowship just vacated by Dr. Fairfax, and likewise that two other Catholics should be admitted; the mandate for the admission of Joyner is dated at Whitehall 11th November, 1687, and in the following January another royal warrant made him one of the College Bursars³. This appointment only lasted a few months when he, with the other Catholic members was expelled by the Visitor, Oct. 25, 1688. Then came the *saure qui peut*. On November 26 Wood writes:—

‘Common report that Lord Delamere, who was about Northampton burning all popish chapel stuffs and defacing popish chapels, would be at Oxford next day or so. Whereupon Mr. Will. Joyner & Mr. . . . Ward, chaplain to Massy, took coach at the Grey Hound⁴ about 9 in the morn.

¹ *Gillow's Dict.*, under Lyde.

² See *Life and Times*, vol. iii, p. 173, and other places.

³ *Magdalen College and James II*, O. H. S.

⁴ There was a large old inn of this sign standing in Long Wall where Magdalen School now is. See Tuckwell's *Reminiscences*, p. 247.

The boys gathered together & cried "Priests ! Priests !" but the coachman drove on and avoided them¹.

After this he spent some time with his sister, Mrs. Mary Phillips, at Ickford, and was back in Oxford in August, 1693, coming and going between the two places. The friendly subscriptions were still going on. Wood went on Oct. 11, 1695, to the Three Pigeons (a coaching inn upon the road between Wheatley and Tetsworth at the turn to Rycote), to find out a way by which Joyner could get his money without passing through Wood's hands.

William Joyner was a man of considerable learning and wrote several plays. His observations upon Cardinal Pole led to his nephew, Father Phillips, writing a fuller life of the Cardinal, the 'subject descending to him by a kind of inheritance.' Joyner spent the latter years of his life at Holywell, lodging in the Manor House with Thomas Kimber.

After the death of Antony à Wood in 1695, Thomas Hearne continued the friendship with the family in the Manor House and held Mr. Joyner in great esteem. A few of his remarks may aptly close this notice and introduce us to the good-natured, homely intercourse of these old cronies,

THREE OLD CRONIES AT HOLYWELL.

Our second friend at Holywell, Mr. Kimber, can lay no claim to any such literary merit as Mr. Joyner possessed, and from his position as bailiff to Mr. Neville and from Hearne's remarks we may suppose his talents to have lain in another direction. In 1721 Hearne mentions dining at the Mitre with Mr. Kimber and Mr. Eyston of Hendred :—

'Mr. Thomas Kimber of Holywell, my friend, is a man of excellent sense and versed in history & antiquities. Being some hours in his company last night & only he & I together, I told him (*inter alia*) that the original design of the Bodleian Library was chiefly for books against the Roman Catholics, etc.'

'Old Mr. Joyner often desired Mr. Kimber to be his executor but he declined, tho' he wished he had, because after his death when they examined his books, they found money stuck in almost every one of them, in all to

¹ *Life and Times*, vol. iii, p. 285.

the value of three or four hundred pounds; which I take to be the reason why he never would let one see his study, tho' often desired to do it.'

Hearne proceeds to say:—

'I was acquainted with Mr. Joyner & used to visit him at the Manor House at Holywell, where he lodged, after dinner, it being his desire I should come at that time because of his going to bed always at four o'clock in the evening & rising at four in the morning. When I used to be with him he would often mention his books as being curious in their kind but I could never get him to show me one, which must have been for the aforesaid reason; yet when he died it appeared that the books were but ordinary. He would talk very pleasantly & have a pint of ale by himself & a very hard crust. . . . Mr. Joyner told me that Mr. Wood used often to come to him & that he told him many stories which Mr. Wood penned down in his presence & when anything pleased Mr. Wood he would always cry "Hum," upon which Mr. Joyner would go on to expatiate. Mr. Joyner told me also to bring my pen & ink & write down what old stories he should tell me; "& when you say Hum!" says he, "then I shall know you are pleased & will go on." But I never did tho' I was with him many times¹.'

Mr. Joyner died on the 13th September, 1706, and is buried under a freestone slab in the churchyard of Holywell, aged 84. 'Mr. Kimber died 22nd May, 1716, aged 89². The son, Mr. Thomas Kimber died 1724-5³.

'Father Thomas Kimber, a native of Oxfordshire, born April 23, 1688: entered the Society, Sept. 7, 1706; professed of the four vows Feb. 2nd, 1724. Served in Wales and died at Powis Castle, April 1, 1742, aged 54⁴.'

RICHARD REEVES.

Schoolmaster and Benedictine Monk; in Religion 'Brother Wilfrid.'

An active figure during the revival of the Catholic religion in Oxford under James II, was Richard Reeves. A cripple from his birth, he devoted himself to the education of the Catholic youths of the time, being debarred by his infirmity from taking Orders.

Reeves was born in 1642, a native of Gloucester, and was entered in due time at Trinity College, Oxford. In 1667 he became a

¹ Hearne's *Diaries*, O. H. S., vol. i; Bliss, *Reliquiae*, vol. iii.

² See Catholic Register, Waterperry.

³ Parish Register.

⁴ Foley, vol. vii, p. 419.

Catholic, and received the Sacraments in the house of Mr. Napier at Holywell. Three years later, in 1670, he obtained the Mastership of Magdalen School, and during the time that he held this appointment he appears to have been a friend and intimate of Antony à Wood, and was employed by him in transcribing portions of his history.

Suspicious of his religion becoming public, Reeves was warned by the President of Magdalen to leave the School, which he did in December, 1673; his friend Wood going with him as far as Abingdon. He retired to Gloucester, and in the following year crossed over to Douay, where he joined the Benedictines in 1675. He seems to have been in England again in March, 1678, staying with Mr. Sheldon at Weston, co. Warwick, and using his influence with his friend Wood to induce him to follow his example in the matter of religion.

In January, 1687-8, he again came over to England, and was reinstated as Master of Magdalen School, which he soon gave up for the school of the 'Blue Foundling Hospital' at Gloucester. The Annotist of the Benedictines, Weldon, tells us that Reeves, 'Brother Wilfrid,' suffered with so many others, from the calumnies occasioned by the promoters of Oates's Plot. The persecution caused by this pretended conspiracy, together with popular feeling in Gloucester in favour of the Prince of Orange, drove him from his new home, and he took refuge with Mr. Trinder at Bourton-on-the-Water, where he taught a school. His enemies soon followed him and brought him back to Gloucester, where he was confined in the Castle as priest and Jesuit, though not either. Having been released from prison he again went to Mr. Trinder's, and thence to Kiddington, to Sir Charles Browne, who had been a former pupil of his. He came again to Oxford, and also spent some time in France at the Monastery of La Celle, a Priory of Benedictine nuns. While there his literary attainments became known to Bossuet, Bishop of Meaux, who was then living near, and Reeves was much esteemed by him.

He died in London, Oct. 31, 1693, and was buried in St. Martin's in the Fields. He said of himself that he had educated sixty Ministers of the Protestant faith and forty Catholic priests¹.

¹ *Athenae*, ed. Bliss, vol. iii, p. 386; Wood's *Life and Times*, O. H. S., vols. ii, iii; Weldon's *Notes*, p. 218.

IFFLEY

FAMILY OF PITTS.

This family, through several of its members, was well known in the latter years of Queen Elizabeth as active and zealous Catholics who braved many difficulties and imprisonments for the Faith. There were two branches of the family, one in Oxfordshire, the other in Hampshire.

The earliest notice we find of the Oxfordshire branch occurs at Iffley.

'The family of Pitts were lessees for several years of the Rectory and the Mill of Iffley. The first occasion on which the name occurs is an entry in the Diocesan Register, from which it is seen that Arthur Pitts, B.C.L., formerly Fellow of All Souls College, Registrar of the Diocese and of the Archdeaconry of Oxford, held the Impropriation and presented to the church in 1567. He died in 1579 and was buried on the north side of the chancel. He left a widow Margaret, and four sons, Robert, Thomas, Arthur, and Philip. Robert, Thomas, and Arthur became possessed of the Rectory. It appears that they had left the realm without license from the Queen, and Commissioners were appointed to enquire into the matter. They say that the above-mentioned Arthur Pitts the younger was born at Iffley; he was chorister at All Souls College, and afterwards went to Brasenose College. But before he took a degree he removed to the English College at Douai. On his return he was imprisoned and was taken from Tower Hill in Feb. 1584, "at the Queen's charge," and put on shore in Normandy, from whence he returned to Douai, where he studied Divinity, became Chancellor to the Cardinal of Lorraine, "being a person much in esteem for his knowledge of the supreme faculty." He came back to England for his "oath's sake" and was received into the house of the Stonors, of Blount's Court near Henley, where he died about the year 1634, and was buried in the church of Rotherfield Peppard¹.

Of the same Arthur Pitts we read: 'Information sent to Sir Francis Walsingham of Robert Pitts a priest of Oxfordshire, brother to Arthur Pitts, also a Prisoner in the Tower².' In 1593 there was a commission of the Lord Chancellor and others to banish Arthur Pitts and

¹ Marshall's *History of Iffley*. This is also printed in Wood's *Athenae*, ed. Bliss, vol. ii, p. 585.

² *State Papers Domestic*, 1581-90, p. 65.

others indicted of High Treason and forbidding them to return without special licence.

1595. 'An Inquisition before Jurors. The Jurors say that the said Arthur was possessed for terms of divers years of a messuage at Stanton (St. John) & of & in the Manor & Rectory of Wood Pery . . . & Thomas Pitts was possessed of & in the Rectory of Iffley & of a mill, etc.¹

A further commission in 1601 declares that:—

'A certain Arthur Pitts was possessed of the Rectory of Iffley, etc., also of lands in Stanton, Wood Pery and Oxford.'

We see from the above Commission that Robert Pitts was a priest in Oxfordshire, he died before his brother Arthur; of Thomas we have no further account, but the family continued at Iffley in the person of Philip the youngest son, who married. He had two children born in 1591, Joane and Simon; the latter married.

The name of Mrs. Pitts of Iffley was returned by the Sheriff in 1583 as a Recusant keeping a priest in the house.

The death of Mr. Pitts of Iffley is thus recorded:—

'When I was a scholar at Oxford, Mr. Pitts of Iffley hard by, being a schismatic and having two sons priests in his house, being often desired to come to the unity of the church, answered that he could when he would; but as he went into our Lady's Church at Oxford, he fell down dead².'

His monument and stone coffin are in the church at Iffley; the former upon the wall at the west end removed from the Chancel.

'The will of Arthur Pitts, the elder, 1st Aug. 1577. Iffley. He bequeaths the parsonage of Iffley and everything else there after the death of his wife Margaret to Robert and Thomas. His premises in Stanton (St. John) and Wood Pery to Arthur and Philip³.'

All their estates were confiscated upon their leaving the realm. In MSS. of the Inner Temple is found 'A narrative by Humphrey Ely of things which befel Mr. Arthur Pitts,' a worshipful priest, 'after his banishment out of the Tower of London, in 1585⁴.'

'36 Eliz. Goods & chattels of Arthur, Robert & Thomas Pitts, Oxford.

37 Eliz. Goods & chattels of Thomas Pitts, late of Yessley, yeoman, an Outlaw.

¹ *State Papers Domestic*, 1591-4, viii, p. 494.

² *Troubles of our Catholic Ancestors*, F. Morris, vol. ii, p. 115.

³ See Marshall, u. s., p. 66.

⁴ *11th Report Hist. MSS.*, App. vii, p. 298.

37 Eliz. Possessions of Arthur Pitts, a fugitive, Middlesex & Oxford.

43d Eliz. Arthur Pitts, Thomas Pitts, fugitives beyond seas.

3rd Cha. I. Philip & Anne Pitts, Woodpery. Philip died 31 Aug.
1 Ch. I. etc., etc.¹

‘Philip Pitts & Anne, half manor of Woodpery in possession of Philip for Anne his sister, Half Rectory of Ystley do:—3d & 5th Charles I.’²

The Ursuline nuns, now at Upton, had a house for a short time in Iffley called the ‘Priory,’ lately belonging to Miss Kent.

¹ *Deputy Keeper of Records*, No. 38, 1877.

² u. s., pp. 110, 113.

PART V. SECTION IV

OXFORD CITY

HAVING in our introductory chapter brought down the history of the struggling Catholics in Oxford to the time when the spark of Faith seemed wellnigh extinguished by the reaction which ensued upon the Revolution in 1688, it remains to show what little can be gleaned of the few individuals who still lingered in Oxford.

The eighteenth century opened darkly indeed for Catholics, and during wellnigh the whole of it they were once more thrown back into the obscurity and upon the unworthy shifts of days of intolerance.

When the estates of Catholic Non-Jurors were registered in 1706 and 1715, only two persons in Oxford, setting aside Holywell Manor, appear in the lists:—

‘St. Peter’s in the East, Oxford. The Vicar presents Edward Musgrave, Innholder, a reputed Papist. Knows no other¹’

‘John Aylworth of Langowen, co. Monmouth, gent.; an estate in St. Giles’, Oxford: George Smith, tenant, £72 14s. od.²’

The family of Aylworth were lords of the Manor of Tackley, about seven miles to the north of Oxford, and probably this person was one of them.

Catholic services apparently lingered on at Holywell until the middle of the eighteenth century, about which time they seemed to cease with the removal of the Catholic inhabitants of the Manor House. Father Joseph Closette, of Waterperry, baptized an Oxford child in 1777.

Twenty years later we perceive the first gleam of better times for Oxford. In November, 1790, Father Charles Leslie, S.J., in his annual letter to his Rector, mentions his having complied with the requirements of the will of Sir Francis and Lady Curson by

¹ *Stonyhurst MS.*, 1705-6.

² Cosin’s *List*, 1715.

serving Oxford and Waterperry on alternate Sundays. Sir Francis Curson died in May, 1750, his widow in April, 1764; how soon the benefit of the will took effect we have no evidence to show until the advent of Father Leslie, who first appears at Waterperry in November, 1790. About three years later he settled at Oxford, leaving at Waterperry half a dozen Catholics, whilst there were full three score at Oxford, 'who for good reasons could scarcely ever attend service at Waterperry.'

The following is a copy of a Circular Letter written in 1804 by the Rev. C. Leslie. At the head is written in his own handwriting:—

'I have written to the following: *non diem*.

Mrs. Haggerston, Ellingham.

Mr. Constable, Beverley.

Mr. Thomas Stapleton.

Lord Petre.

Mr. Wheeble at Woodley.

Miss Constable, York.

Mr. Webb-Weston.

Old Lady Blount.'

'*Oxford.*

When on the abolition of the Penal Laws, enacted against us in troublesome times, I resolved, after mature deliberation, to settle in Oxford and build there a Chapel for the use of the Catholics; my undertaking met with the approbation of our Bishop, and the concurrence, at least in good wishes, of our Clergy and of the Catholic Body at large, who judged with me that this conciliatory measure would gradually pave the way to a mutual intercourse between parties, and give the rising generation, in this great University, a favourable opportunity of inquiring into our Religious and Political principles and of divesting themselves of some prejudices of education which were not to our advantage. It is evident that measure gave no offence to the University; for since that time it has most liberally made two large subscriptions for the relief of the French Clergy; it has employed three Gentlemen of that Corps in teaching modern languages to its scholars; it has printed, at its own expence, a very handsome Vulgate Edition of the New Testament, merely for the use of that Clergy, of which nevertheless it did me the honour to vote me a copy; and it has admitted several of our Catholic Gentlemen to the honorary Degree of Doctors in Civil Law. No sooner was the said design proposed by me to our Bishop, who was then the Rt. Rev. and Honble. Dr. Thomas Talbot, than he not only subscribed largely towards the undertaking, although deeply engaged himself at that time in other works of the same kind, but he likewise solicited several opulent Catholics to contribute towards the same. This subscription met at first with rapid success; for in a short time the Collection amounted to £500, which is very near the whole amount of the money hitherto obtained by subscription for this Chapel; so that everybody seemed to be of opinion that, seeing there was so ready a dis-

position in the Catholics to subscribe to this good work, there could be no doubt but the rest of the money wanted for the completion thereof would be obtained with very little difficulty. A contract was therefore passed with an Architect for building the shell of the Chapel, the works to commence immediately, and to be finished within a stipulated period of time; whilst the Circular Address for subscriptions was to be directed to other members of the Catholic Body, whose Donations, added to the former, were likely to produce wherewith to finish the Chapel in a handsome manner, and so as to command some degree of respect in the eyes of everybody. The remaining part of the subscription would no doubt have answered our most sanguine expectations, had not the disastrous effects of the French Revolution driven over to England, at that very period of time, the French Clergy, and compelled our own Clergy and Religious Women to seek refuge in their native land. This unexpected event suddenly diverted all the Charities of the Catholics into a new channel, as it was just and reasonable it should; so that donations towards erecting Chapels were then no more thought on, and I was advised by our late Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Berington, who always had this establishment very much at heart, and whom I consulted on this occasion, to postpone all solicitations towards a subscription for the Chapel at Oxford until the return of peace and tranquillity, when I might resume the business with more propriety, and with greater hopes of success. But as the Chapel was already begun building, the walls being then twenty feet above ground, and at the same time the Contract with the Builder could not be rescinded, or annulled, I found myself under the absolute necessity of prosecuting the undertaking without any delay. I completed this solemn and handsome edifice as soon as possible, and I decorated it in a style of Elegant Simplicity, which has hitherto met with universal approbation. But for this purpose it was necessary that I should take up a sum of money at interest, larger, reckoning the interest-money I have already paid, than that arising from the subscription. From the accurate accounts I have by me, which have been laid under the eyes of the chief members of this Congregation, it is clear that the total of the expenditure for the building and furnishing of the Chapel has amounted to £994 3s. 4d. The subscription money was £534 3s. 7d., which sum being deducted from the former leaves £459 19s. 9d. This money I have been under the absolute necessity of borrowing, and advancing for the Congregation, besides six years interest of the same, the whole amounting to £597 19s. 0d., which sum added to the subscription money brings the whole amount to £1132 2s. 7d. I readily gave up, before this Chapel was built, the sum of £1400 at 3 per cent. towards the Foundation of this Establishment; but this was the utmost extent of my abilities; to do more was, and still is, impossible for me, as I took care to prevent the Congregation before the works were begun. In a word, I have reduced myself to great distress, and am actually labouring under the most serious and pressing difficulties on account of what I have done for the Congregation, which has it not in its power to repay me the capital I have

advanced nor the interest thereof. For though they are about 160 in number, still there is scarcely a person of any property among them, so that the Bench-money barely pays for the wine and candles at the Altar, whilst on the other side I have £30 per annum to pay for interest of money taken up for the building and furnishing of the Chapel. In my former address to the Catholics concerning this Chapel, I promised to send the Subscribers an account of the subscription at the close of the same, which has not hitherto taken place. However, in order to give them the most complete and earliest satisfaction I can, I shall here subjoin the said List of Subscribers, and if the account of the expences incurred in the building of this Chapel was not so very long, I would have had it printed on this same sheet; but if any one of the Subscribers wishes to see it, I will send him a written copy of it. In the meantime, in my present state of embarrassment, I trust nobody will be surprised, that in the name of the Congregation, and in my own, I should thus address those of the Catholic Body who are most likely to subscribe towards this Religious Undertaking, requesting their assistance, and promising them that, as a suitable return for their charitable exertions, besides the usual commemoration of Benefactors in the August Sacrifice, two special services will be announced to the Congregation, and celebrated annually, as they have been hitherto since the opening of the Chapel; the one for the Benefactors Living, and the other for the Dead.

Subscriptions will be thankfully received by Messrs. Wright, Selby & Robinson, London; and by

Madam, your most obedt. humble Servant,
C. LESLIE.'

[Added in MS.]

'Give me leave, Madam, to condole with you on the very great loss you have sustained in the person of the late Mr. Haggerston¹, for whom I mean to offer up prayers and whom I mean to recommend to-morrow to the prayers of my Congregation.'

'ACCOUNT OF THE SUBSCRIPTION MONEY.

Arranged according to the dates of the respective subscriptions.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
The Rt. Rev. Bish. Thos.				Mrs. Fitzherbert, do.	1	1	0
Talbot	50	0	0	Two of their Servants .	0	15	0
Mr. Weld of Lulworth				Mrs. Heneage of Cadeby	5	5	0
Castle	30	0	0	R. H. Lady Wenman .	5	5	0
Rev. Mr. Stanley . . .	20	0	0	Mrs. Tunstall	5	0	0
Mr. McCann	5	5	0	A friend of her's . . .	5	0	0
The Rt. Hon. Lord Petre	100	0	0	Mr. Campione	50	0	0
Rev. Mr. Howell . . .	1	1	0	Mr. Leverett	50	0	0
Mr. Fitzherbert, of				Lady Mostyn	2	2	0
Swinnerton	1	1	0	Mr. Davey, Senior . .	2	2	0

¹ Mr. Haggerstone died at Ullingham in 1804.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Mr. Davey, Junior . . .	1	1	0	Rt. Hon. Lord Arundell	10	10	0
Mr. Scholes, Senior . .	1	1	0	Mr. Eyre of Warkworth	20	0	0
Mr. Scholes, Junior . .	1	1	0	Sir John Throckmor-			
Mr. Stonor of Stonor . .	21	0	0	ton, Bart.	40	0	0
Mr. Sheldon, Counsellor	1	1	0	Mr. Eyston of Hendred	1	0	0
Mr. Pandolpho Collins .	0	10	6	Mr. Walker, Orator .	1	1	0
Mr. Eyston, Senr. late				Mrs. Ivory	1	1	0
of Hendred	2	2	0	Lady Fleetwood . . .	5	5	0
Rev. Mr. Bruning . . .	2	2	0	Miss Williams, of Mal-			
Rev. Mr. Addis	1	1	0	vern	5	5	0
Philalbion	5	5	0	Rev. Mr. Williams . .	5	5	0
R. H. Countess Dow,				Hon. Charles Dormer .	10	0	0
Shrewsbury	30	0	0	Mr. Clifford, of Tixell .	2	2	0
Mr. Glasspole	2	2	0	Mr. Bowdon	5	5	0
Mrs. Bowdon	5	5	0	Rt. Hon. Lord Clifford	20	0	0
					£	534	2 6

N.B. I am happy in having this opportunity of acknowledging my obligations to Mr. Sheldon, Councillor at Law, for some valuable vestments for the use of the Chapel, to the Rev. Mr. Lawson for two beautiful Albs, and likewise to Mr. Campione for a set of large Prince's Metal Candlesticks for the Altar. The Chapel is 65 feet in length by 30 in width. The Altar-piece representing the intombment of our Saviour is a very valuable picture. The Burying ground is contiguous to the Chapel.'

[Added in MS.]

'We the undersigned who have recognised the accounts of expences incurred by our Pastor in the building and furnishing of the Catholic Chapel of Oxford, are commissioned by our Brethren to unite our sentiments with his, in returning our sincere thanks to our Benefactors, and in requesting further assistance from all well wishers to Religion.

A. CAMPIONE,
ROBERT PLATT.'

The above-mentioned candlesticks are still in the chapel. They are tall and handsome, triangular bases, no chasing, but around the sockets is engraved the inscription:—

'A. Campione—dono capellae. Oxon. 1795.'

The date given in Kelly's *Directory of Oxford* for the foundation of this Mission is 1785; this may very possibly be the date of the purchase of the house in St. Clement's, and as Father Leslie was in the county for some years before he settled in Oxford in 1792–3, he very

probably secured the house at that time. It was rebuilt by the 'Society' in 1829.

Dr. Milner gave Confirmation here in 1805, Jan. 1807, 1811, 7th July, 1822, 27th Aug., 1819.

As far as can be ascertained now the endowments of the Mission were: 1st. The bequest of Sir Francis and Lady Curson of a certain fund to help to maintain a Jesuit to serve the Catholics of Waterperry, Oxford, and neighbourhood. 2nd. One thousand pounds left by Countess Leslie, mother to the Jesuit of that name. 3rd. Several smaller sums given by yeoman families.

A Memorandum in the Rev. Henry Campbell's library at Beaumont College states: 'Charles Leslie erected the Chapel at Oxford in 1793. It is 70 feet long and 30 wide.'

Public attention appears to have been called to the new Chapel and curiosity excited as to its belongings, and in *Reginald Dalton*¹, a novel 'upon Oxford life,' the Catholic Chapel is mentioned, the priest figuring as one of the heroes. He is styled 'Mr. Keith' a Scotchman; in reality Father Leslie. He is said in the story to have lived many years in Germany and eventually came to Oxford, being obliged to leave that country by stress of war.

The second volume of the Register (the first closing 30th June, 1800; see Waterperry) opens in November, 1800. It begins:—

'Registrum Baptismale Catholicum Missionum unitorum Oxoniensis et Waterperiensis Incipiens 4 Nov. 1800. Volumen Alterum. N.B. Volumen prius est exiguum, et charta marmorea coopertum, et ferme totum lingua vernacula conscriptum. Baptismi et sepulturae incipiunt ab initio saeculi Decem septimi in isto Registro.

C. LESLIE.'

The first baptism is one of the Platt family on the 4th November, and several more of the same family continue.

'5th Dec. 1800. Ellenam, filiam Henrici Curson et Bridgittae.' She died an infant at Water Perry.

1801. 5th Jan. Prayers were at Dorchester and the following day was baptised by Dom.² Triquet a french priest, Joseph son of William Davey, "in periculo mortis."

¹ By the author of *Valerius* and *Adam Blair* [J. G. Lockhart]. Published by Blackwood, Edinburgh, 1823.

² This style 'Dom.' does not mean to imply that the priest belonged to a religious order, but only stands for 'Mr.'

26 April. At Thame was baptised by Dom. A. Rouxel a french priest, Thomas son of John Short, a soldier of the Dragoon Guards.

1804. 8th Oct. Bap. Charlotte dau. of Domini Johannis Talbot and his wife: Godparents, Charles Brocone armiger, and Domina Bridgit Curson.'

In July, 1807, occurs the first signature of Rev. James Leslie.

On May 16, 1813, occurs the first signature of Rev. John William Conolly.

On Nov. 15, 1818, occurs the first signature of Rev. Robert Newsham.

On Aug. 30, 1828, occurs the signature (once) of Rev. Nicholas Sewall.

'1833 March. Baptised Adeline dau. of Sholto Douglas & Julia Isabella Gianetta (de Montmerenci?) his wife. Godparents, Compton Carolus Domville & Victoire Schoelard?.'

On March 11, 1849, occurs the first signature of Rev. Hen. Brigham.

In the years 1827 and 1828 about 110 people made their Easter at St. Clement's. This included people from Islip, Dorchester, &c., and the Rev. Sam. Rock of Kiddington.

The following Memorandum is written at the end of the Register by Father C. Leslie:—

'St. Clement's, Oxford, Sept. 27th, 1805. On this day I received from Mr. Thomas Day of Fritwell, formerly of Hardwick, the sum of Twenty pounds to be applied and added to the foundation of this place under the following stipulations. 1. That a mass be said annually at all times to come for the rest of the souls of all Catholics buried in Hardwick Church or churchyard.

2. That in all ages to come the four following anniversary masses be said, viz.: (1) For his father Robert Day, June 15th, nota bene that his mother was a Protestant. (2) For his brother John Day, May 24th. (3) For his brother Robert Day, July 6th. (4) For his sister Mary Collingridge, March 2nd.

In the same letter the said Mr. Thomas Day desires I would insert here his name and the name of his wife Mrs. Mary Day, who mean to add at their respective deaths, something to pay annually for the rest of their souls. Ita est.

C. LESLIE.'

Another later on:—

'May 31, 1822. Mrs. Mary Cruse this day gave £20 to the Catholic Chapel of St. Clement's, Oxford, on condition that the Incumbent say one

anniversary mass for each of the undernamed for ever, viz. Charles Cruse, who died Sept. 7, 1802.

William Davey Feb. 25, 1803.

William Cruse Sep. 28, 1805.

Mary Davey May 13, 1807.

And one for herself after her death.

ROBERT NEWSHAM.'

'Anniversaries to be kept by this District and which are now in a particular manner incumbent upon the District foundation of Oxford :— Henry Pelham¹, alias "Wareing," May 27th. Anne Chamberlain, June 21. Mr. Christopher Hatton and his wife, June 24 and 30; and the other people mentioned above.'

BURIALS IN THE CHAPEL AND IN THE BURIAL GROUND BEHIND IT.

A note in the old Register says :—

'Died in the Infirmary of Oxford, on the 21st Feb. 1798, Francis Dwyer, gardener to William Fermor, Esq., and a native of Ireland. He was buried the first of all in the Burying ground and that at the west corner, on the 24th do.

Buried in the Quire towards the garden, the Rev. Mr. Hothersal, S.J.'

Father William Hothersall was grandson of William Hothersal of Ashton, co. Lancashire, and was born in that county July 19, 1725. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1744 and was professed of the four vows Feb. 1762. He was the last Jesuit Rector of the English College in Rome before the suppression of the Order 1773. After the suppression he continued for some time in Rome, then obtained leave to go to Liège with his pension and afterwards came over to England, and lived in the family of Lord Wenman, whose lady, the daughter of Lord Abingdon, was a Catholic. At his death he retired to Oxford and lived with his confrère, Mr. Leslie. He died Aug. 25, 1803, and was buried in the Chapel at St. Clement's in the Quire towards the garden.

'Buried in the Quire near the Pulpit, the Rev. Charles Leslie, S.J., the 2nd Jan. 1807. He built this Chapel at Oxford.

Buried in the Chapel, Mrs. O'Connell in Feb. 1807.

Buried in the Burying ground, Mrs. Machenry, 1807.'

BURIALS IN ST. CLEMENT'S.

There is extant among old papers belonging to the Mission at Oxford the first leaf of a Burial Register.

'Registrum Sepulchorum in Coemeterio Catholico St. Clementis Oxonii.

¹ For Father Pelham *alias* 'Warren,' see Introductory Chapter.

Die 22 Oct. 1819 mortuus et 24 eiusdem mensis sepultus est Richardus Eaves, civis Londiniensis, natus in Hibernia in Comitatu Kilkenny.

a me Robert Newsham, Miss. Apos.

Die 25 Dec. ann. 1819 mortuus est et die 3 Jan. sepultus est Reverendus Petrus Senechal, olim in collegio Ambrosiensi (vulgo Amiens) in Gallia, Philosophiae, deinde Londini, nuper Oxonii, Galliae, Latinae, Italiaeque linguarum Professor, annos natus circiter 66.

a me Robert Newsham, Miss. Apos.

From the Register of Waterperry:—

'July 28th, 1795. I baptised on this day at Oxford Robert Platt, son of Mr. Robert Platt and Mary his wife, born the day before at Oxford in St. Aldate's Parish. Godfather, C. Leslie. GodMother, Mrs. Sarah Kempster. C. Leslie, Clerk.'

'Charles Platt son of Mr. Robert Platt and Mary his wife, buried in the Confessional. His sister Sarah an infant was buried close by him.'

Several more baptisms of the children of the same family continue in the second Register.

The above-mentioned Robert Platt lived to become a priest and Canon of Plymouth. Oliver says of him:—

'He studied at Ampleforth, thence matriculated in the English College at Rome. Promoted to Holy Orders in Rome, ordained priest 1824. In Oct. the same year he was placed on the Mission at Axminster, and at Christmas 1826 sent to Lanherne; he was also at Swansea and Falmouth where he remained for nearly twelve years. The Mission in 1843 was made over to the Redemptorist Fathers, and Mr. Platt was ordered to leave by the Bishop, Dr. Baines. He was now dependent upon the unfortunate and vacillating policy which governed Prior Park, and for some time remained unemployed and his salary in arrears. The Catholic establishment of Falmouth directed a touching appeal to the Bishop begging him to leave Mr. Platt amongst them, but without avail¹.

Rev. Robert Platt (Diocese of Clifton) died Oct. 24th, 1876².

TOMBSTONES THAT ARE STILL LEGIBLE IN THE OLD GRAVEYARD.

'Hugh O'Connor, Esqr., late of Dominick Street, Dublin, who departed this life in Oxford, 10th March, 1815, in the 34th year of his age. R. I. P.'

'In memory of Joseph Hay. He died Nov. . . . aged 79.'

[O'Connor and Hay were linen Merchants from Ireland.]

'Mary Prince, who died Dec. 28th, 1817, aged 78.'

'Revd. Franciscus Chadwick, S.J. Post iter in Indiam animarum lucrandarum causa bis susceptum. Tres annos Oxonii missionarius Apostolicus Doctrina zelo animarum cultuve in deiparam insignis. Obiit Martii V anno 1857. R. I. P.'

¹ See Oliver's *Collections*, p. 381.

² *Catholic Directory*, 1876.

'In memory of . . . B. I. A. Tallant, who departed this life June 12, 1816, aged 63.'

Upon the stone of Joseph Hay, 'also George Hopkins who died June 18th, 1830, aged 26.' From the *Catholic Directory* we learn that he was killed by a fall from his horse.

A small stone to a little child of the Hopkins family, 1805. The Hopkins were coach-builders, living in George Street.

'... nah. . . enby. . . 1807?'

'Charles Hanley. Dec. 11, 1816? aged 34.'

Upon a small marble tablet formerly inside the Chapel:—

'In the burial ground behind this chapel are deposited the remains of Mary Anne the beloved wife of John Smallwood of Napton, Warwickshire, and daughter of Ambrose Smith of this City who died Feb. 9, 1848, aged 26.'

Another marble tablet from the Chapel:—

'In the burial ground behind this Sanctuary are deposited the remains of Elizabeth Macdonell the beloved and lamented wife of Arthur Clifford, Esq., and niece to the Rev. Charles Leslie, who erected the Chapel. She died at the age of 38, July 29, 1827. May she rest in peace.'

Mrs. Arthur Clifford was the daughter of Elizabeth Leslie, sister to the two Missioners of that name, and of Captain Macdonell, of Leich. Her husband was brother to Cardinal Weld's wife. From the rating book of St. Clement's Parish we find that they lived in what are now two houses upon the Cowley Road, No. 59. At that time it was the last house in the parish along that road, and there was a way across the open ground at the back to the door into the priest's garden. Mr. Clifford left the house in the autumn of 1828. Arthur Clifford was born 1777, educated at Douay, imprisoned during the French Revolution with the rest of the College, and liberated Feb. 25, 1795. At one time he edited *Galignani*. Died at Winchester, 1830.

There were two sons and a daughter of this family. 'Brother Arthur Lewis Clifford, son of Arthur Clifford and Eliza Macdonell of Leich, co. Inverness, born in Paris, 1818, died at Stonyhurst, 1841¹; another son and a daughter Rosamund, who married in 1846, J. S. Charlton, 63rd Regiment. She married twice after this. Mrs. Clifford was evidently the ideal of *Reginald Dalton's* heroine.

'FOREST RIGHT' BELONGING TO THE MISSION.

'Shotover, 1662, Oct. 3. Whitehall. The King to the Lord Treasurer.

¹ Foley, vol. v, p. 986.

By a warrant of March 10 last, authorized a lease of Shotover to Sir Timothy Tyrell and of Stowood to Anne Powell¹, under certain rentals; but finding the lands so wasted during the rebellion as to be unfit for a park, his lordship is to authorize the lessees to enclose, build upon or till them; the leases have not yet passed, on account of opposition made by the commoners, and are not to include the rent for Michaelmas last, as the tenants have not received any profits as yet; the commoners are to be warned that if they further oppose the leases, the proportions of land set out for the compensation shall be demised from them².

'1663, March. Grant to the Earl of Lindsey of coppices & woodgrounds in Stowewood and Shotover, co. Oxford, on rent of £50 to the King and £50 to the Bp. of Oxford. The same thing to Sir T. Tyrrell.

Feb. 1664. The same thing again to Montague Earl of Lindsey, and to Sir T. Tyrrell of the same upon the same terms³.'

REPORT OF CHARITY COMMISSIONERS.

The copy in the Bodleian has had the leaves renumbered, so this is on p. 120 of the revised copy from 1815 to 1839; the date of this report is not given, but it is subsequent to 1819.

'St. Clement's. "Common rights" were to go to the restoration of the Church.

The Common land having been enclosed, 55 acres called "Burhill Coppice," were allotted to the landholders of this Parish, and are now let from year to year, at their full value for the benefit of the Parishioners, who were entitled to "Forest Right" in respect to their houses. The rent is divided every year amongst those Parishioners.'

The value of one 'Forest Right' was about 24s. per annum.

The ground upon which the Chapel was built had one 'Forest Right,' which was sold about the year 1841, when the matter was dealt with, relating to the purchase of the rights on Shotover from the Parish, by Colonel Miller, of Shotover Lodge.

The piece of Land at Northmoor was bought by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in 1841 from Colonel Harcourt. Was this from money representing the Forest right? (see Northmoor).

A closed-up doorway at the end of the priest's garden led into a 'public way and footpath leading from St. Clement's Street to the back of the garden attached to the Roman Catholic Chapel and hence into the Cowley Mileway at or near the south corner of the Victoria Brewery⁴.' Victoria Brewery was close to the present Nazareth House.

¹ Of Forest Hill probably, not of Sandford. ³ u. s., 1693-4, p. 94.

² *State Papers Domestic*, 1661-2, p. 506. ⁴ 'Inclosure award for Cowley,' 1850, Top. Oxon. MSS., C 71.

OXFORD MISSIONERS.

We here subjoin short biographical sketches of the successive Missioners who have served Oxford during the present century, chiefly taken from Oliver's *Biographies of S.J.* and Foley's *Records*.

1793. Father Charles Leslie of the Scotch Province. On his first coming to England from France he resided at Woodstock, then at Tusmore, where he was the last resident Jesuit, afterwards at Waterperry, finally at Oxford, where he founded the Chapel in St. Clement's in 1793. He died suddenly from paralysis on the 28th December, 1806, and was buried in the 'Quire of the chapel near the pulpit.' A brass tablet was erected to his memory. 'By his amiable manner and classical acquirements he conciliated the respect and esteem of many members of the University ¹.'

1806. Father Charles was succeeded by his elder brother, Father James Leslie. Before coming to Oxford he had served the Mission of Market Rasen in Lincolnshire from 1780 till 1793, and was for some years at Grafton Manor, until 1806. In the autumn of 1812 he was appointed Chaplain to Peter Middleton, Esq., of Stockold Park, Yorkshire, and died there Aug. 5, 1816, being in his 76th year, and was buried at Spofforth. He had renewed his vows in the restored Society ².

1812. Father John William Conolly, of the Irish Province, followed Father J. Leslie. His first signature in the Register is on the 16th May, 1813. He died here from rupture of a blood-vessel on Sept. 5, 1818, aged 39, and was buried in the Chapel. A tablet recording this was formerly to be seen there ³.

1818. The Rev. Robert Newsham served the Mission from this date for upwards of thirty years. First signature in Register Nov. 15, 1818. He opened a school in the Presbytery in 1832, where many boys of the upper classes were educated, and this school he removed with himself to Dorchester in 1849, which place he had frequently served. He apparently took part in the controversies of the day. In the *Catholic Magazine* for 1831 (p. 238) is printed a letter, headed 'Oxford Controversy,' upon the University sermon preached by the Rev. Mr. Bulteel in St. Mary's Church on Sunday the 6th of February in the same year. The letter is signed 'R.N.,' presumably Robert Newsham. It was during his Incumbency that Dr. Newman was

¹ Foley, vol. v.

² Foley, vol. vii, p. 453.

³ See Oliver.

received into the Church, and first attended Mass in the Catholic Chapel upon the Sunday following the 8th October.

In 1849 Mr. Newsham (leaving the Society of Jesus) left Oxford for Dorchester, where a church was built by Mr. Davey, and to which Mr. Newsham himself contributed £1000. He died there in 1859.

1849. Father Henry Brigham, S.J., arrived in Oxford to take up the Mission. A member of the old Yorkshire family of Brigham, of Swine, and brother to the Rev. Charles Brigham, of Dodding Green, Kendal. First signature in Register March 11.

1854. *March 30.* Father Francis Chadwick, S.J., of whom Foley gives us the following account :—

‘ Francis Chadwick, son of Mr. Francis Chadwick, of Preston and Burgh Hall, co. Lancaster, and his wife Margaret, daughter of the Rev. Thomas Whitehead, Rector of Eccleston. Born Sept. 14, 1801. Made his studies at Stonyhurst. Entered the Society in Sept. 1818, and professed of the four vows Aug. 15, 1835, in the principal church of Calcutta, dressed in the usual habit of the Society. In 1827 he had been appointed Prefect of Studies at Stonyhurst. Went to Rome in 1833, and was presented to the Pope before departing for the new Calcutta Mission. On June 16, 1855, he took possession of the house in Calcutta given to the Society by Mr. Fattolah, an Armenian Catholic, and opened schools July 1st following. He returned to England June 9, 1838, on account of sickness, and after again visiting Rome returned again to Calcutta the following year. In May 1842 he returned to England with a broken constitution, and after serving the Missions of Worcester, Stockhold Park, Holywell and London, he died a missionary at Oxford, March 5, 1857, aged 57 ¹.’

He was buried in the ground behind the Chapel at night, surreptitiously, as the urban burial-grounds had just been closed by order of Parliament. His tombstone is still in good order.

1858. Father Francis Jarrett, S.J., here for a short time.

1859. Father Charles Blackett, S.J.

This year the Mission was given over to the Bishop of Birmingham, and was served by secular priests until 1871.

1860. The Rev. Alexander Comberbach, who went to Stonor in 1869, and apparently exchanged with the following.

1869. Rev. James Nary, who had been at Stonor since 1865. Mr. Nary was famous for his musical talent, and it was in his time that the first choir at the old chapel, under Mr. Pole, who was voluntary organist, attracted so many, and resulted in the conversion of the Marquis of Bute.

¹ Foley, vol. vii, p. 124.

1871. The Mission was again made over to the Jesuits, and Father James Henry Corry, S.J., came into residence on the 5th March. How he found matters upon his arrival is best told by himself. 'I took the reins from the courteous hands of the Rev. J. Nary who was removed by his Bishop to Stafford,' and soon after Father Corry proceeded in the following letter to explain how he found the affairs of the Mission :—

'Priests house, St. Clement's, Oxford. Dec. 31, 1871.

... We have £33 endowment of which since I came (9 months ago) I have received £17. From other sources I have received (exclusive of what was given me for the use of the school) about £85, say £90 for I am speaking only approximately. Let the total be £105 to £110. You will guess that at least I have enough support for scholars and choir and may keep the £105 for church and house and taxes and clothes, etc.! No, I have not, for on one school account I have paid £9 more than I have received, and I fancy I shall have to meet the whole expense of next quarter's school myself, for I do not know of any other subscriptions usually paid that have not yet come in. The school costs £70 a year and my regular subscribers do not reach £40. ... I gave in my income at the income tax office as £130, that, if I get it, is little enough for church and house and servants and poor without having to tax it heavily, as I expect to do for schools. ... Our whole Offertory to-day here is 15s. 4d. ... about 45 seat holders. ...

(Signed) yours etc. J. H. CORRY.'

'The "Society" retired from their old mission of Oxford in 1859 when it was ceded to the Bishop of Birmingham. They resumed it in 1871. The old chapel being inadequate to the wants of the congregation and inconveniently situated, a new church was determined upon, and a site purchased in Woodstock Road. The first stone of St. Aloysius' Church was solemnly laid by the Bishop of Birmingham on Tuesday, May 20, 1873. It was opened on Tuesday, the 23rd November, 1875, by the Bishop of Birmingham, in the presence of his Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, Dr. Manning, who also preached upon the Text, "Dominus Illuminatio mea¹."

The late Baroness Weld, *vere* Welles, left by will a handsome legacy towards the erection of the church. In December, 1897, Dr. Ilsley at his Visitation declared the Congregation to number 780 souls.

In 1902 a handsome present was received from a lady of the congregation for the renovation of this church; consequently the whole was painted, and the necessary repairs effected and electric light put in.

¹ Foley, vol. v.

DR. NEWMAN.

This little review of Catholicity in Oxford would be incomplete without the mention of one of the most startling events in the religious world of that time. How Dr. Newman was received into the Church is best told in the following words:—

1845. 'Father Dominick the Vice Provincial of the Passionists was living at Aston Hall near Birmingham. Mr. Dalgairns, one of Dr. Newman's companions at Littlemore, went to Aston and was received into the Church by Father Dominick on the 29th September; on his return to Littlemore he wrote to Father Dominick to come thither without delay. He started at once and arrived as an outside passenger by the coach to Oxford at 10 P.M. on 8th Oct., completely drenched with rain.

He was met at Oxford by Messrs. Dalgairns and St. John, who accompanied him to Littlemore. The first words they uttered were that Dr. Newman, their master and friend, had decided on following their example. This announcement made him forget the fatigue of his journey. Stepping into a conveyance, they reached Littlemore by 11 o'clock that night.

The rev. priest was introduced into a parlour, and while standing by the fire to dry his clothes Dr. Newman entered, and kneeling at his feet, entreated him to hear his confession and receive him into the Church of Jesus Christ.

Father Dominick was moved to tears, and after a short interval proceeded to hear his general confession. On the following morning Messrs. Bowles and Stanton made their confessions also, and in the evening all read the Profession of Faith in the private chapel of the house. On the 10th of October Father Dominick celebrated Mass there, and administered the Holy Communion to Dr. Newman and Messrs. Dalgairns, St. John, Bowles and Stanton. He was afterwards introduced by Mr. Dalgairns to Mr. Woodhouse, his wife and two daughters, who begged the benefit of his ministry to be reconciled to the Church. All this was accomplished to their mutual comfort. When Father Dominick first saw Dr. Newman he said good-humouredly, "Little-more" and you will be right¹!

The following Sunday Dr. Newman and his friends made their way by a back field-lane to Oxford and heard Mass at the public chapel. Dr. Newman quitted Oxford finally on the 23rd February, 1846, and for 'three and thirty years he never saw it again excepting its spires as they are seen from the railway.'

His house at Littlemore was put up to auction the following June, and at the present time is divided into cottages and the old Library-Chapel is used as a Parish Room, with reading-room and local

¹ From Oliver's *Collections*, p. 166.

museum. Before Dr. Newman took it, the building had been a range of stabling, of one story in height, and forming two sides of a square facing two roads. At the back the divers rooms were connected by a sort of cloister open to the garden, arranged by himself.

In February, 1878, Dr. Newman visited Oxford, and again in May, 1880, he came, and was fêted by the President and Fellows of his old College, Trinity. On Trinity Sunday that year he preached in St. Aloysius's Church upon the Mystery of the Day.

SALES OF PROPERTY IN OR NEAR OXFORD, 1799-1881.

In the sale of the Rectory farm at Cowley, 1837, occurs this:—

‘That the estate will be sold subject to a lease dated 4th day of June 1833, for a term of 14 years, granted to the Rev. Robert Newsham, of 38 Perches of ground or thereabouts, in Bartholomew Field, called “Gross,” at a yearly rent of £10 per ann.¹’

Sale of property in Littlemore, June, 1846:—

‘A range of buildings consisting of 18 separate Rooms or Apartments, all of good size and some rather spacious, which for several years past have been occupied by the Rev. J. H. Newman and a garden adjoining, enclosed with a view to privacy, and an inclosed passage between the Apartments and the Garden running the whole length of the Property, and other conveniences. This lot is now on Lease to the Rev. J. H. Newman².’

In pencil. ‘650. 0. 0.’

The lot, now occupied by the Rev. Mr. Pilcher of St. Clement's, was sold in 1859, with the whole of the land in Pembroke Street, Oxford, in three lots, and bought, two by Wyatt, and one by Johnson.

DR. NEWMAN AND THE PROPOSED ORATORY IN OXFORD³.

Although absent during those thirty years Dr. Newman was open to entertain any project for the good of religion which the Bishop might deem expedient to propose to him, and of such a proposition the following pages will speak.

A pamphlet entitled ‘Facts and Documents relating to the Mission and Contemplated Oratory at Oxford,’ written by Dr. Ullathorne, was privately circulated among the bishops and others.

In 1864 the site of the old Poor-House at Oxford, near Worcester College, came into the market; it was a desirable position, and

¹ In Bodleian Library: Gough Adds. Oxon. 6. 4.

² Auction Catalogue.

³ From *Life of Cardinal Manning*, by Purcell, vol. ii, p. 292.

extended over five acres. Finally Father Newman in Sept., 1864, purchased these five acres for £8,500.

In the above-mentioned pamphlet Dr. Ullathorne tells us :—

‘At that time, 1864, and for a considerable period afterwards, the question was still under discussion, both in England and in Rome, whether it would be expedient or not to establish a Catholic Hall at Oxford.’

Dr. Newman bought the land on the 20th September. On the day following, at an interview with the bishop, Dr. Newman asked him what he would think of an ‘Oratory’ at Oxford, to which the bishop replied that he would not only accept the proposal, but would transfer the Mission to the ‘Oratory,’ &c.

After some discussion as to the propriety of Catholic youths going to the University, Dr. Newman writes to the Bishop :—

‘1st. That we have no intention at present to do more than accept your Lordship’s offer to put into our hands the “Oxford Mission.”

2. That we do so with a view to the future foundation of an Oratory there ; and for the same reason we buy the ground.

3. That we have no intention in any way to co-operate with the University, or with the Colleges of Oxford, whether by taking lodgers, or private pupils, or in any other way.

4. That we propose to confine ourselves to the spiritual duties of the Mission, taking the care of the present Catholics there and doing our best to increase their numbers.

5. That neither now, nor in time to come, will we take part in any Catholic college there, or sell our ground for that purpose, without your lordship’s knowing our intention, so that you may write to Propaganda on the point if you so wish.

6. That we feel the kindness of your offer to write for us to Propaganda, but we will not avail ourselves of it—nor write ourselves—for this simple reason, that if we do, we shall give Propaganda the impression that we are contemplating something more than the performance of spiritual duties at Oxford.

7. That we contemplate, as our first step, to build a church on such a site as we can best provide for it.

26th Sep. 1864.’

After further correspondence upon the subject of University education for Catholics at Oxford, finding the feeling of the bishops was against it, Dr. Newman relinquished his idea of establishing a church and Oratory there and determined to resell the land. This intention was communicated to the bishops in December the same year.

A little later, however, seeing that the number of Catholic youths at Oxford was on the increase, Dr. Ullathorne reopened the question

with Dr. Newman and expressed his wish that he would take up anew the work of building a church and founding an Oratory in Oxford. A petition, dated 11th June, 1866, was addressed by the Bishop to the Pope through Propaganda. The answer from Rome proved unfavourable. In the meanwhile a circular with the approval of the Bishop, was issued requesting subscriptions for an Oratory in Oxford, and whilst in private circulation the sums promised or given amounted to £5,000. But the whole undertaking was suddenly stopped by a letter from the Cardinal Prefect of Propaganda.

‘Commenting upon this and upon the apparent indifference with which his proposal had been met, Dr. Newman writes to Mgr. Patterson, dated 15th April 1867, saying, . . . It was part of the same incomprehensible neglect that, when Cardinal Reisach was here last summer not a hint of any kind was given me that he, etc. . . . but he was taken to see the very ground I had purchased at Oxford, being lionised over it, as I understand, by Father Coffin, who had no claim whatever to represent the owner of that ground, etc.¹. . .’ ‘when my Bishop, *proprio motu*, asked me to undertake the mission of Oxford, I at once committed myself to a very expensive purchase of land and began as he wished me, to collect money for a church . . .²’

The end of the whole business was the sale of the land to the University Chest, and the subsequent building thereon of Wellington Square.

The purchase of the site and building of St. Aloysius’s Church had no connexion whatever with the above transactions.

¹ u. s., p. 314.

² u. s., p. 500.

PART V. SECTION V

CULHAM, DORCHESTER

FAMILIES OF YOUNG AND DAVEY



CULHAM

AT Culham, little or nothing has come down to us of Catholic interest. In ancient days its church held the right of sanctuary, but its history is obscure. A branch of the family of Young of Whatcombe, Berks., a well-known Recusant family, lived here. Wood, writing in 1680, says they came from Wiltshire.

Amongst Berkshire Recusants, 1680, we find :—

‘Mr. William Young of Whatcombe, gent.’¹

1706. ‘The Vicar of Culham presents one popish recusant, Mr. Young.’

1717. ‘The present Steward to Sir Cecil Bishop at Culham is named Young, he lives there’².

This Mr. Charles Young was the father of two Franciscan Friars who served the Mission at Whatcombe, Berks., and doubtless extended their ministrations on this side of the water. After the death of his grandchildren the Whatcombe property went to the Hydes of Hyde End, who also were Catholics. We shall meet with this family further on. Rawlinson, about 1718, tells us that a certain ‘Mrs. Greenwood, a Romanist, left 20s. per annum to the poor of Culham to be distributed every Good Friday in 20 halfpenny loaves, and a legacy of £20’³.

The name of Greenwood seems now to be forgotten at Culham.



DORCHESTER, BURCOT, AND OVERY

Dorchester, the seat of the earliest bishopric in the county of Oxford, was during the Middle Ages under the care of the Augustinian Friars of the great Abbey of St. Peter and St. Paul. The little town has

¹ 11th Report Hist. MSS., App. ii, p. 233 seq.

² Hearne, *Collections*, O. H. S., vol. vi, p. 72.

³ MSS., B 400 f.

dwindled down to insignificance ; even its secular importance as a busy halting-place upon the high road is now gone, and it lies, lonely and secluded from the present centres of life, four miles distant from Culham station on the Great Western Railway. In this quiet spot we must even search further for the nursing home of the old Faith during the dark years between the accession of the Stuarts and the nineteenth century.

Across the river Thame, upon the left of the great bridge as you go south, lies Overy, the 'place beyond the water.' A mill, a substantial farm, and a row of cottages, form the hamlet, which is part of the parish of Dorchester. Here from the early days of the seventeenth century lived the old Catholic family of Davey. All the inhabitants of Overy appear to have been Catholic, and Mass was constantly and uninterruptedly said amongst them.

In close connexion with these parts was the family of Day, also Catholic, and from a certain Day of Burcot the old Wittenham Ferry came to be changed to 'Day's Lock.' Burcot is a hamlet upon the Isis, about two miles from Overy. Of these families Cosins (under 1715-16) reports :—

'John Day of Burcott, in the parish of Dorsetshire, yeoman, estate part copyhold, part freehold, including a barn and pasture called Parson's Slade Close, let to William Davie for 30s. : £8 5s. od.

Edward Day of Dorchester, yeoman, copyhold messuage there £7 os. od.

Thomas Day of Hardwick, copyhold estate at Warborough, tenant Moses Cox £2 1s. 6d.

William Davie of Overy in the parish of Dorchester, yeoman, copyhold messuage, lands there, held under Montague Earl of Abingdon ; in his own possession.

Robert Prince, labourer, copyhold held under the same.'

Again, from a *List of Papists*, July, 1706 (kept at Woodstock) :—

'Burcott : John Day, yeoman, and Mary his wife ; Martha wife of John Nutt, Collermaker.

Dorchester : Thos. Edward, labourer, Robert Day, yeoman, Will Day, yeoman, and Eleanor his wife ; John Prince, labourer ; Milman and wife, labourer.

Clifton : George Prince and his son John yeoman, £30 per an.'

There was a Catholic, Prince, who kept a house of entertainment called 'Rome' at Nuneham Courtenay¹.

¹ See Hearne's *Collections*, vol. vi, O. H. S., p. 141.

One of the family of Prince was in the Society of Jesus, and took the alias of Lacy. He was imprisoned for the Faith and died in prison.

The Days emigrated from Burcot to Hardwick, Somerton, and Fritwell¹.

A little work by Mr. E. C. Davey, entitled *Memories of an Oxfordshire Catholic Family*, &c. (published by Vail & Co., Farringdon Road, London, 1898), gives us the divers alliances between the families of Davey, Prince, Gosford, Haskey, Taylor, and Scoles, all Catholic names, appearing for many years in the registers of the old Missions. The Davey family held Overy upon a lease for three lives from the old Abbey of Dorchester, and it was only renewed twice during three hundred years. Mr. Robert Davey, who died on December 20, 1901, was the last lessee; after his death the family did not renew, and consequently the Catholic connexion ceased and interest from that point of view in Overy dropped.

PRIESTS AT OVERY.

We learn from Foley² that this was one of the places where a Jesuit Father occasionally resided, but the names of only two have come down to us. When Dorchester is mentioned in relation to Catholic matters it is Overy which is meant.

The name of the first was one of a well-known Recusant family in Hampshire, Father Gilbert Wells, a relation of Mrs. Holman, of Warkworth. Father Wells was residing at Dorchester when he made his will in 1752. This is preserved with others at Stonyhurst, and printed in the 10th *Report Historical MSS.*:—

‘Gilbert Wells (Rev.), of Dorchester, Oxon; Devisees and executors Cornelius Morphy and John Jackson of Kiddington. 31 Jan. 1752.’

He was still at Dorchester in 1758, but from 1764 to 1773 he served the Mission at Winchester. He died in Wiltshire on the Mission, October 17, 1777, aged 63³.

The second Missionary we find here came from the Irish Province of S.J., and was also connected with Warkworth—Father Bernard

¹ See those places; also Catholic Register at St. Clement's, Oxford.

² Vol. vii.

³ u. s., and Oliver's *Biography*.

Cassidy, *vere* Stafford. It is conjectured that his real name was Stafford, as he was buried as such; he was Superior in the Oxford District, residing at Warkworth in 1764, at Dorchester in 1773, and lastly at Thame Park, where he died June 11, 1778. He is said to have been the last Jesuit residing at Dorchester until the next century began ¹.

Father Cassidy having left, we next find the charge of the Mission undertaken by Father Bruning of Britwell, who entered the following memorandum in his own Register :—

‘The Catholics in and about Dorchester had formerly a Missioner among ’em, but as they have no longer that help and would otherwise be destitute, Charity can’t consider ’em but as a Part of this Congregation. At Overy is to be found all necessary Altar-Furniture. The same has been made use of regularly seven times throughout the year; i.e. some week day during each Indulgence or thereabouts.’

Names of the Catholics :—

‘Sophia Gosford, Dorchester; John, Philadelphia senior, Mary and Philadelphia Day; William, Anne senior, Anne Milman; William and Mary Davey, Overy; and William and Mary Day; Richard Collingridge; Richard Chirell, Burcot; Mary Clinch.’

It is stated that the old chapel and priest’s house were pulled down in 1877. Some old vestments are preserved, also the old chalice, which is still in use. It bears the legend, ‘Given by Lady . . . to the “Oxfordshire Mission” for herself and her family,’ thus being a precious relic of the times when the whole county was considered as one ‘Mission.’ The maker’s mark, and alas! the lady’s name, are worn out. Cardinal Allen, writing from Rheims, Sept., 1583, says: ‘One of our priests sent me word that he alone had caused 30 chalices to be made this year, tho’ there are many in different parts of the island who do the same ².’ These chalices were small, and usually could be taken to pieces, divided i.e. into two or three parts, both for better security and for carrying from one Mission to another. And such is the Dorchester chalice, the one at Souldern, and that at Banbury, from Warkworth.

The French Emigrant Clergy lent their valuable assistance to many of our country Missions, which without them would have remained with very scanty help. Mr. Davey at Overy gave hospitality to several

¹ See Foley, vol. vii, and Oliver, *Biography*.

² *Douay Diaries*.

of these confessors of the Faith, as the family tell us, but unfortunately we have only the name of one amongst them. He was a man of position in his own country, and commanded the respect of all who met him. Dying while at Overy, he is buried in the south aisle of the Abbey Church.

‘To the Memory of the Rev. Michael Thoumin des Valpons, D.D., and C. L., aged 62. Archdeacon and Vicar-General of Dol in Brittany. A man conspicuous for his deep knowledge and moral virtues. Exiled since 1792 for his Religion and his King—favourably received by the English Nation. Deceased at Overy, March 2nd, 1798. Greatly indebted to the family of Mr. Davey, and interred in this church at the request and expense of the Rev. Dr. Gauntlett, Warden of New College, Oxford. R. I. P.’¹

After the death of this gentleman in March, 1793, there appears to have been no resident Chaplain, but Overy was served by French priests, probably from Thame. They are incidentally mentioned in the Baptismal Registers. Dr. Milner gave Confirmation here in August, 1819. In July of the above year (1793) the twin sons of Mr. Davey were baptized by the Chaplain of Waterperry and Oxford, and as far as our records tell us, with the exception of a short interval, filled up by a Jesuit (see below); the Catholics of Dorchester and Overy remained dependent upon Oxford until the new church was built in the town in 1849.

‘William Ibbotson, born near Skipton, Yorks., Dec. 4, 1800. Studied at Stonyhurst, entered the Society at Hodder, 1818. After serving the missions of Dorchester near Oxford, Pontyfract and Wigan, he died at Stonyhurst, March 3, 1834’².

He seems to have been followed by the Rev. R. Newsham, from Oxford, in 1823. Mr. Newsham served both places upon alternate Sundays, and the Davey family remember driving into St. Clement’s upon the Sunday when he did not come, and after Mass, putting up at the Collingridges, then living on a farm where stood the old Elm Tree Tavern, now the corner of Jeune Street.

The present chapel was built in 1849 by Mr. John Davey, who left his own house to the Mission. It is dedicated to St. Birinus, the ancient patron of the town, and the endowment was settled between

¹ Printed in *Notes and Queries*, 5th Series, vol. ii, p. 225, Sept. 1874; also in Skelton’s *Oxfordshire*.

² Foley, vol. vii.

Mr. Davey and the Rev. Robert Newsham, who left £1,000 to the endowment. Wardell was the architect.

The Priests have been :—

1849. The Rev. Robert Newsham from Oxford, who moved his school here and died here in 1859.

1860. Vacant.

1861. Rev. Henry James Green.

1864. Rev. Henry Davey.

1878. Rev. James Nary.

1885. Rev. William Barry, D.D.¹

¹ From *Catholic Directory*.

PART VI. SECTION I

THAME AND NORTH WESTON, GREAT AND LITTLE HASELEY

FAMILIES OF WENMAN, BOULTER, WOLFE



THAME

THE Prebendal or Parsonage House at Thame stands close by the river. All through the days of Elizabeth it was tenanted by a Catholic family, and Mass was continually said from 1565 until the Revolution. A lease was taken of the house about the year 1600 by John Dormer, and ten years later it is said to have been let to one of the Cursons¹.

In the Refectory of the house was preserved until late years (1844) the old Tabernacle used in post-Reformation days. It was a little over a foot in height, with a domed top and opened by a panelled door. The moulding had been painted vermilion and gold, with symbol of the Holy Trinity above the door, and the letters A. and O. on either side of the device².

In 1661 the place was apparently abandoned. Wood says in that year:—‘In the ruins of the old Tame Prebendary is a hall & chappell now standing, as also the ruins of other roomes, half round the quadrangle³.’ In later years it was restored and inhabited by the father of Dr. Lee of Lambeth, who was Vicar of Thame. In Thame arose the family of Dormer, who increased their landed wealth by their marriage with the heiress of Collingridge. Geoffrey Dormer was merchant of the ‘Staple of Calais,’ and lived at the Place House in Thame, where he built large warehouses for storing wool. He lies under an arch in ‘Dormer’s aisle’ in the church between his two wives and surrounded by his twenty-eight children⁴.

¹ Dr. Lee’s *Collections for Thame*, Top. Oxon. MSS. d. 41, p. 59: ‘Will Cozens or Curzon of Thame, yeoman, 1630.’

² Dr. Lee’s *History of the Prebendal Church of Thame*, p. 575.

³ *Life and Times*, vol. i, p. 409.

⁴ Wood, u. s.

In *Quietus Roll* of Charles I, 'Dorothy Mayne of Priest's End is returned for 40s. *od.*' The Maynes were from Buckinghamshire.

'Recusants; Seymour of Thame said to have come from Heythrop¹' Ashfield of Heythrop married a Seymour. 'Charles Greenwood of Thame & of Easington and Henry Seymour of Thame²'

THAME PARK.

This old Cistercian property after the Dissolution was acquired by Lord Williams of Thame, and descended to his eldest daughter, who married Sir Richard Wenman, Knt. The Wenmans were wool-staplers of Witney, who intermarried with the family of Fermor of Somerton and Tusmore.

Catholicity was kept up by the family, and we read of amusing little episodes which took place here in Elizabeth's reign during a visit of Father Gerard's³. This visit was doubtless one of many which occurred at intervals throughout those perilous times, but any further information about Chaplains or Missionaries we are unable to give.

In later times a Jesuit Chaplain lived here, when the lady of the house was again a Catholic.

'At Florence in August, 1727, Willoughby Bertie, nephew to the second Earl of Abingdon, married Anna Maria, daughter of Sir John Collins, Knt.⁴' All their daughters were brought up Catholics, and Anna Eleanor, the fourth daughter, married Philip, seventh Viscount Wenman. During her married life, 1766 to 1804, a regular Chaplaincy seems to have existed.

In Rycote Chapel is the following inscription:—

'✠ In Memory of Sir John Collins who died ye 22nd June 1763. In the 73rd year of his age. Requiescat in pace.⁵'

Lady Abingdon, daughter of Sir John, died Dec. 21, 1763, and is buried there likewise. The following notices are taken from the *Catholic Directory* Obituary:—

'1795, *March* 21. Mr. Randolph Collins.'

'1804, *Apr.* 19. Right Honble Lady Eleanor Viscountess Wenman, Hinde Street.'

¹ Dr. Lee's *Collections for Thame*, p. 6.

² Dr. Lee's *Church of Thame*, p. 599, note.

³ See *Life of Father Gerard*, by Father Morris, pp. 345 and 348.

⁴ *Church of Thame*, u. s.

⁵ u. s., p. 330.

'1804, Aug. 17. Right Honble Lady Elizabeth Peregrine Gallini.'

'1805, Jan. 5. Sir John Gallini.'

In the chapel in the Park, which was built by Robert King, the last Cistercian Abbot of Thame, are the family tombs, and among them lies Father Stafford, S.J., who died there. He had been for some years at Warkworth and at Dorchester, and took the *alias* of 'Cassidy.' The name of Stafford was probably his patronymic as he is buried as such.

✠ I. H. S.

Bernard Stafford, died June 12th, 1788, aged 76. ✠'

After him we find Father Hothersall here as Chaplain, who died at Oxford.

THE FRENCH EMIGRANT CLERGY.

Twice during the wars and revolutions on the continent at the close of the last century, Thame had been selected as a resting-place for Frenchmen in trouble. First the English Government sent to Thame a detachment of French prisoners, about 130 men. Here they were well received by the townspeople and made themselves at home, four among their number being married to English wives in the Parish Church, General Vaillant de Joyeuse, Governor of Martinique, being the head of the party¹.

A few years later the great influx of French Clergy, who refused to sign the oath tendered to them by the Revolutionary Government, began. The English Government received the exiles, and registers were opened at Jersey, Dover, Canterbury, Winchester, and Southampton, besides London, for enrolling their names and dioceses. Mr. John Wilmot, M.P., was most zealous on their behalf, and to him and to Edmund Burke they owed much of the hospitality offered to them. The King's House at Winchester was offered to them by Government, and here more than six hundred found a refuge. This lasted for about three years, when in 1796 the immense number of prisoners induced the Government to remove the priests further into the country and put the prisoners into the house at Winchester. Accordingly houses were hired in various places and drafts were sent to each. At Reading an old hotel known as the King's Arms in Castle Street was secured, and a number of Norman priests apportioned to it². On the 22nd Sep-

¹ *Church of Thame*, p. 658.

² *Le Clergé français émigré réfugié en Angleterre*. Chanoine F. Plasse, vol. ii, p. 43.

tember, 1796, the French priests began to leave Winchester. Twenty-six of them started for Reading, and one hundred and nine for Thame. On the 31st October the house at Reading had one hundred and eighty-two refugees and would hold three hundred, the house at Thame had one hundred and eleven and was full.

The contingent at Thame was from Brittany, under the guidance of l'Abbé Despons, Chanoine de St. Brioux. The house where they lived is thus described by Dr. Lee in the *National Review* :—

'The then untenanted mansion built by Sir Francis Knollys of Thame was at once hired for this purpose. It still stands with spacious gardens and well-timbered grounds behind it¹, though these have been vulgarised, and is a good-sized handsome Queen-Anne-like mansion, on the south side of the high street of that town: and was at once furnished under the direction of the Marquess of Buckingham and Mr. Richard Smith, the local J.P., for the purpose in hand. Within a week eighteen of the exiled clergy had found a refuge in it, superintended in the first instance, as Director of the House, by Monsgr. Thoumin Des Valpons, D.D., Archdeacon of Dol. Some of the exiles travelled thither from Reading, who had landed on the Dorsetshire coast; others came from London by the coaches from Oxford to Worcester. They were welcomed by the Vicar and chief inhabitants, the stay of some extending five years. Later on thirty more exiled clergy and students of theology were received in the place of those few who had returned to the Continent².'

Dr. Lee's grandfather allowed the exiles at Thame no less than £250 a year for more than four years, over and above the monthly grant from London; they were also constant guests at his table. Owing to many causes the mortality seems to have been very great among the French clergy; by the end of 1802 it is variously estimated to have been from 700 to 1,300, and many returning into France at a lull in the revolutionary storm, the houses at Reading, Thame, and Paddington were closed in that year. L'Abbé Despons, Principal of the College of St. Brioux, gave up his keys on the 19th June into the hands of a Mr. Powell. The house is now (1905) used as the Oxford County School.

Some of these priests remained in England and served for several years upon various missions.

At Mapledurham, M. l'Abbé Charles Lefèvre de Rouen.

At Warkworth, M. Pierre Hersent de Coutances.

At Oxford, M. Gabriel Sénéchal d'Amiens.

¹ This house is now the property of the Wakeman family. Lupton's *Thame*, p. 161.

² Lee's *Collections for Thame*, p. 181.

At Brailes, Pierre Chardon.

At Fingest, and served Henley, M. d'Allard.

At Tusmore, an unnamed Abbé, &c.

The following were buried at Thame :—

'Jan. 18, 1796, Rev. Will. Chanderelle, of the parish of St. Thurian, town of Quintin, Diocese of St. Brieux, aged 59.'

'1794. Rev. John Benign le Bihan, Diocese of Quimper, Rector of St. Martin des Prés, Brittany, aged 60.'

The hospitality shown to these poor exiles by the people and Government of England was abundantly acknowledged by them. The following extracts from the *Gentleman's Magazine* are sufficient for our purpose here, and much more may be found in the same volumes :—

'The University of Oxford have reprinted the Vulgate translation of the Bible at the Clarendon Press for the use of the French emigrant clergy, adding this to their other liberalities towards those persons whose conduct has justified the opinion entertained in their favour by those who have assisted them¹.'

An inscription of gratitude by the French clergy at Winchester to the English Nation is printed, together with the answer by Mr. Wilmot, M.P., in the *Gentleman's Magazine*. The first-mentioned was engraved upon a tablet of white marble by the care of the Marquis of Buckingham, Military Commander at Winchester, and affixed to a pillar in the chapel of the 'King's House,' where there were more than six hundred priests sheltered.

Mr. Wilmot's answer is as follows² :—

'Pour l'avantage et le bonheur de l'univers chrétien. Au Clergé François réuni dans le Château royal de Winchester par la bienfaisance de sa Majesté Britannique ou partout ailleurs dispersé en Grande Bretagne après un renversement déplorable quand le courage à défendre la loi et la religion était puni par l'oppression et l'exil. Que la Divine Providence leur accorde un retour heureux dans leur Patrie, le rétablissement de leurs autels et de leurs foyers ou la perpétuité d'un asile salulaire, qu'ils devront à la générosité anglaise ! Tels sont les vœux ardents que nous adressons à un Dieu puissant et bon, prosternés humblement, mes concitoyens et moi,
J. W.

A.D.N. M.D.C.C.XCIII.'

The gratitude of the Clergy is further expressed in a letter of M. l'Evêque de Léon, dated Dec. 30, 1792³.

¹ *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1796, Part ii, p. 849.

² Parts i and ii, 1793, pp. 391, 685.

³ Printed by Coghlan. Mentioned at p. 930 of above volume of *Gentleman's Magazine*.

In vol. lxvi, part ii, p. 1077, in speaking of the dread which Protestants felt of the French Clergy making converts, it says, 'I consider them as sufferers for conscience' sake. . . . I never heard of any immorality amongst the Emigrant Clergy, enough of it among the Emigrant laity.

1801. It is denied that the Catholic Bishops had ever placed the French Clergy under an oath never to enter a Protestant Church¹.

Title-page of the Vulgate printed for Émigrés mentioned above:—

‘ Novum Testamentum
Vulgatae editionis
juxta
exemplum parisiis editum
apud Fratres Barbou
Sumptibus
Academiae Oxoniensis
in usum
Cleri Gallicani
in Anglia exulantis
Cura et studio quorundam ex eodem clero
Wintoniae commorantium.
Oxonii
e Typographeo Clarendoniano
MDCCXCVI.’

The University of Oxford gave 12,000 French livres towards their maintenance.

Lines written by a French emigrant priest²:—

‘ Suivons dans leurs greniers
L’ardeur de ceux qui savent des métiers,
De saint Crespin sous l’odorante étoile
Est tout courbé le curé de Marolle ;
Il faut le voir aiguïser son tranchet,
Accommoder la semelle au rivet,
Du sanglier par une même voie
A contre-poil deux fois passer la soie,
Et sur le champ pour assembler ses points
Tirer en diable en fermant les deux poings.
L’un tient si bien les petites écoles
Qu’il gagne au moins par an trente pistoles.
Veux-tu que j’entre en de plus grands détails?
On fait ici de jolis éventails,

¹ Vol. lxxi, Part ii, p. 592.

² Plasse, vol. i, p. 307.

Et j'ai connu quatre de mes confrères
 Par ce métier arrangeant leurs affaires.
 Eux plus que moi laborieux, adroits,
 Font obéir la paille sous leurs doigts
 Et d'une tresse artistement ourdie
 Font un chapeau pour la noble ladie;
 D'autres sachant manier les couleurs
 Forcent la plume à se changer en fleurs.
 Pour nous
 Laissons les vers et les réflexions faites
 Annonçons nous pour marchand d'allumettes.

L'ABBÉ LANGLAIS.'

Lists of the French Émigrés Clergy are to be found in the *Catholic Directories* for 1838, 1841, 1843, 1847, 1848.

NORTH WESTON

'Mr. Owen, a Roman Catholic priest, was with Lady Clark in Oxfordshire nigh unto Thame.' There is a tradition, I may add, that up to the year 1624 the old Catholic services were held in the chapel of Weston.

Lady Clark was daughter (Mary) of Sir John Bourne, Knt., of Worcestershire, Secretary of State to Queen Mary¹.

Names of Jesuits in England. 'Mr. Owen with the Lady Clark in Oxfordshire².' Perhaps Thomas Owen³ of Godstow.

GREAT AND LITTLE HASELEY

THE MISSION OF HASELEY.

1620. 'Haseley Court: Great Haseley.' Hence we learn that these two places were served by Members of the Society of Jesus.

Great Haseley, in the latter part of the sixteenth century, passed by marriage from the family of Lenthal to Mr. Abraham Horseman, who married in 1566 Mrs. Elinor Lenthal, probably a widow, and died in 1603. By this marriage he became entitled to the Manor and Parsonage of Great Haseley. Several children survived this marriage, but eventually the property reverted to the Lenthals of Lachford.

¹ *Church of Thame*, u. s., p. 307, note.

² *State Papers Domestic*.

³ Foley, vol. vii, p. 562.

This branch of Lenthal intermarried with the Southcots of Berkshire, whose name frequently occurs amongst the Catholics of Oxfordshire.

The Manor was sold to Sir John Cutler, Knt., and Baronet of London, whose daughter married the Earl of Radnor, and who again sold it to George Blacknal, Esq. Neither Sir John Cutler nor the Earl resided at Haseley, so we may imagine the few Catholics living quietly around their old chapel undisturbed by the absentee Protestant landlord¹.

Dame Agnes Lenthal, third Abbess of the Benedictine Abbey at Brussels, now at Bergholt, was daughter of John Lenthal of Lachford. She died in 1651.

1612. 'Grant of the benefit of the recusancy of Elizabeth Horseman, co. Oxford²,' to certain parties named.

Isabel Horseman of Haseley married a Belson of Aston Rowant.

Great Haseley: 'Elizabeth Windslow, house and land.—Thomas Reynolds, tenant³.' This Reynolds had no connexion with Cassington.

'E. Windslow of Chipping Wycombe, Bucks.—Estate at Haseley £5 15s. od.⁴'

Delafield, in his *Collections for Haseley*, tells us that the above Thomas Reynolds was his grandfather, and that he married his first wife in the Catholic chapel of Haseley Court. The farm upon which he lived was the last remnant of the estate of the Huddlestons, of whom presently. It would appear from this notice that there remained no Catholic chapel at Great Haseley at the time of the above-mentioned marriage, and that the people then resorted to Haseley Court.

THE MISSION AT LITTLE HASELEY. (HASELEY COURT.)

In the year 1541, Anthony Huddlestons, lord of Millum, co. Cumberland, married in the parish church of Haseley, Mary, the heiress of the Barrentines of Little Haseley. His family held the property for five generations and there kept open-handed hospitality. When the struggle between the King and his Parliament broke out, the Squire

¹ Delafield, *MS. Collections for Haseley*, Bodleian Library, Gough, Oxon. 19.

² *State Papers Domestic*, p. 116.

³ *Cosin's List*, 1715.

⁴ *Payne's Non-Jurors*.

of the time mortgaged the Haseley estate in order to raise a troop of horse for the King, and from this encumbrance it never recovered.

Father Huddleston, the friend of Charles II, was of this family, although he was born in the north. Delafield tell us :—

‘The old house had a chapel for the service of the Family and Neighbourhood, for the supply of which the Huddlestons kept a domestic Chaplain, and in this chapel I have heard my Grandfather, Thomas Reynolds, say that he was married to his first wife. After the Huddlestons had left Haseley and mortgaged or sold their estate there, this chapel was by Thomas Lathom the farmer turned into a stable. A shameful abuse of consecrated places this, which if the pious designs of their Founders cannot preserve in their original intention should, however, exempt them from such scandalous abuses.’

The Haseley Court estate remained in the Huddleston family about one hundred and thirty years, after which time Ferdinando Huddleston returned to Cumberland, and, as our author quaintly remarks, ‘took with him his ancient hospitality, forgetting to transfer it with his estate to the next possessor.’

Edmund Boulter was a draper and prosperous citizen of London. By right of mortgage granted by Ferdinando Huddleston to Sir John Cutler, the estate of Little Haseley came into his possession. Both Cutler and Boulter were benefactors to the College of Physicians in London, and their names are still coupled and well known in Oxford by the medical charity, ‘Cutler-Boulter Dispensary.’

We have no evidence that the Boulter family were Catholic; probably they were not so. The first Edmund Boulter never lived at Haseley; he left it to his nephew, a second Edmund, who rebuilt the old house and settled there with his wife, Anne Bramstone of London, and there she died. Only one child came from this marriage, Elizabeth, on account of whose health the father went with her abroad, and he died at Avignon in May, 1736. His body was brought home to England, and buried with his ancestors in Yorkshire. By his will, made while abroad, he left two farms in Little Haseley to ‘found, erect, and endow a Hospital near St. Clement’s by Oxford.’ This was built in 1780, but only lasted one hundred years, being destroyed by the City authorities in the ‘eighties’ and Boulter Street run through the site.

The year following her father’s death, Elizabeth Boulter married John Wolfe, Esq., who thus entered into possession of Haseley Court.

FAMILY OF WOLFE.

The family of Wolfe seems to have come from Essex and does not appear to be connected with the other family of the same name from Madeley, Salop.

Thomas Wolfe, M.D. of Padua, Oxford, and London, bequeathed more than £10,000 to Catholic charities.

His younger brother, John Wolfe, married Anne Pincheon, of Writtle, Essex, whose sister was Lady Petre. He was one of the sufferers from the Act of William III, excluding Catholics from practising at the Bar; but being in extensive practice he could not be spared by his clients, and we find:—

‘Many gentlemen offer themselves as surety for John Wolfe of Queen’s Street, who left London in obedience to the King’s Proclamation, that he may have leave to return, as he has for many years managed the affairs of the Petitioners (Protestants) as their agent, and is one of the Executors of the late Countess of Thanet, having many of her documents in his custody¹.’

The next head of the family was William, whose name is returned amongst the Non-jurors, 1716, as:—

‘William Wolfe of St. Andrews, Holborn, Esqre. Copyhold estate at Bradfield, Essex, £371 5s. 0d. House in Queen Square, in trust for him for sixty-one years from 1702.’

William Wolfe died 1739, leaving his estate to his widow Frances Weston. Their son John married Elizabeth Boulter of Haseley and had three sons, all unmarried, the last survivor, Charles, dying at Brussels on 13th Sept., 1768².

Haseley Court had been long let to a tenant, whose name is mentioned in the Register of Waterperry; at a christening in 1748 the sponsors were ‘a man and maid from Mr. Wolsey’s of Haseley Court.’

The death of Mr. Charles Wolfe coincided with the building of the new chapel at Britwell and the congregation seems to have been transferred thither. In the Waterperry Register we find a note by Father Charles Leslie as follows:—‘Nota bene that hitherto the people of Haseley always since there was no priest there, that is since the death of Mr. Wolfe of Haseley Court, belonged to the Congregation

¹ 11th Report Hist. MSS., App. ii, p. 82.

² See Catholic Register of Waterperry.

of Britwell now without assistance, and are attended by me out of charity.' This, though undated, was written about the year 1796, corresponding to the vacancy which seems to have occurred between the departure of the Blounts and the coming of the nuns to Britwell.

Mr. Charles Wolfe was a College friend of Mr. Blount, of Mapledurham, and on his death he left to Mr. Blount by will all his personality, including his land at Chalgrove.

Haseley went to the next of kin of the name of Tomlinson. 'Boulter Tomlinson of Cheltenham married Sarah Foley¹.'

¹ *Burke's Peerage*, under Foley.

PART VI. SECTION II

TETSWORTH, ASTON ROWANT, CHINNOR,
GREAT MILTON, SHIRBURN, SWINCOMBE

FAMILIES OF PHILLIPS, BELSON, FIESCHI



TETSWORTH

FAMILY OF PHILLIPS OF ICKFORD, KIDLINGTON, AND TETSWORTH.

THIS family originated in Thame from a retainer of Sir John Williams, and then spread to many places in this county, and also into Bucks. Some members settled at Ickford, Forest hill, Shabbington, and Crendon, and some remained at Thame. Thomas of Ickford, an attorney, became wealthy, and bought the Manor of Tetsworth from the Pettys, and marrying Mary Joyner, *alias* Lyde, left a son and daughter. The son became a Catholic and this induced his father to leave the estate, away from him, to his son-in-law, Lenthal Trotman of Bucknall, 'all except the dwelling house so long as he should dwell therein.' This house was apparently at Ickford, and the family monuments are in St. Nicholas Church there.

'Near this place lies Thomas Phillips, gent., and Mary his only wife. He was baptised 19th Dec. 1630, and died 23rd Jan. 1704. She was baptised 18th June 1624, and died 29th Oct. 1681. They left one son and one daughter, Thomas and Mary.'

In 1716 Thomas, the son, who was a Catholic, registered his estates as follows :—

'Thomas Phillips, of Tetsworth. Freehold estate there held in trust for him for his life under the will of Thomas Phillips, gent., his late father, dated 6th Jan. 1697, who left all his lands in Tetsworth and elsewhere to his son-in-law Lenthal Trotman ("except my house or home-stall for so long as my son Thomas Phillips shall think fit to dwell therein") with certain conditions¹'

¹ Cosin's *List*.

In the church of Ickford is this inscription :—

‘In memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Phillips, only wife of Thomas Phillips, gent., who by her had eight sons and one daughter . . . She was the sole daughter of Johnshall Crosse, Esq., and departed this life 10 Nov. 1735, aged 58.’

Also the following :—

✠✠ ‘Hoc saxum visus morituro mihi posui.
Thomas Phillips, gentleman, 1740¹.’

From the Catholic Register of Waterperry we learn the date of his death : ‘Mr. Thomas Phillips died 26th August, 1742.’

The eldest of the eight sons of the above was Father Thomas Phillips, S.J., who was born at Ickford, July 5, 1708². He was the well-known author of several works, and on account of his erudition and literary acquirements was made Canon of Tongres in 1739, through the influence of the ‘Pretender,’ then in Rome, with leave to enjoy the fruits of his Canonry while serving upon the English Mission. At one time he acted as Chaplain to Lord Shrewsbury and to Mr. Berkeley of Spetchley. He died at Liège in 1774. Of his seven brothers we find nothing certain. His only sister became a nun, under the name of Dame Baptista, at Ghent, and was Abbess of that house (now Oulton, Staffordshire) in 1761. According to Dr. Lee, in his *History of Thame Church*, p. 599, the Catholic branch of this family has now expired.

The following poem is from his hand :—

‘To the Rt. Rev. & Religious Dame, Elizabeth Phillips, on her entering the Religious Order of St. Bennet in the Convent of English Dames of the same Order at Ghent.

‘Do you my ways direct, my steps attend,
At once my guide, companion and my friend :
O teach me, teach me heavenly joys to prize,
Myself to conquer and the World despise :

¹ These inscriptions are printed in Lipscombe’s *Hist. of Bucks.*, vol. i, p. 284. The Author visited Worminghall and Ickford on May 15, 1897, and then verified the inscriptions on the monuments. The inscription beginning ‘Hoc saxum, &c.’ is on the outside of the church over the porch. There is nothing to show that Mrs.

Elizabeth Phillips had become a Catholic, or otherwise. Some years before her death she gave a chalice and paten to the church. The old family house is still standing, divided into four cottages.

² For an account of his life and works see Oliver’s *Biog. S.J.*, and Foley, vol. v, p. 855.

Prompt to my view each blissful scene display,
 And charm my sight with gleams of endless day :
 Thus, when this frame shall shake with ready death,
 And my lips tremble with their latest breath,
 My parting soul, in seas of pleasure drown'd,
 By saints surrounded, and by angels crown'd,
 From earth, on wings of seraphs borne, shall fly,
 And mount triumphant to its native sky ;
 Then, thron'd in glory, shall we ever shine,
 And friendly spirits place my soul with thine¹.'

ASTON ROWANT

The parish registers of this place introduce us to the first notice of the family of Belson, who have given a Martyr to the Faith.

'In the parish register of Aston Rowant I find one Augustine Belson baptised in 1555, and another of the same name in 1560. In an old assessment paper

Aston Rowant.						£	s.	d.
Austin Belson, in goods	.	.	.	.	.	12	0	12
Kingstone Blount.								
John Belson, in goods	.	.	.	.	.	5	5	0
Thomas Belson, in goods	.	.	.	.	.	3	3	0

Austin Belson was ancestor to a family that afterwards were seated at Brill, co. Bucks., where they had a genteel habitation and a considerable estate, as they had also at Stokenchurch, co. Oxon., and at Kingstone Blount, where a branch of them is still existing. Maurice Belson, Esq., was in 1708 buried at Stokenchurch where they had a handsome estate, sold partly to Baron Scrope of Wormsley and to Paul Jodrell, Esq.; and Strudley Farm².

Of the Brill branch of this family was Mr. Thomas Belson. He was a student at Rheims, and returned to England in 1584 in company with Mr. Francis Ingolby, a priest, who was later on martyred at York. Dr. Challoner gives us the following account of what happened :—

'Mr. George Nicols, a native of Oxford, left the same College of Rheims in 1583 and began his mission, which was principally in and around Oxford. Mr. Richard Yaxley, some years younger than Mr. Nicols, had his mission in the same parts and regarded him as a father.

¹ These lines are copied from Dr. 1796.
 Lee's *History of Thame Church*. They
 have been printed several times since

² *Delafield MSS.*, Gough, Oxon. 48,
 p. 155^b.

They had their lodging at the "Catherine Wheel" in Oxford, and there¹ one day Mr. Belson arrived to pay his respects to the priests and to confer with his confessor upon his spiritual concerns.'

Their secret was soon known, and one midnight they were disturbed by the violent entrance of the University servants, and all taken the next morning before the Vice-Chancellor's Court. In reply to the usual examination they all confessed their faith. With needless barbarity they were sent to London and there imprisoned, racked and tortured, and finally sent back to Oxford for execution. The first to suffer was Mr. Nicols, and it was remarked that his dead hand remained erect and held up as if in menace against the city. Thomas Belson followed the two priests, and after him the inn-servant, Humphrey Prichard, a Welshman. Their heads were set up upon the old Castle walls and their quarters over the city gates. They all suffered upon the 5th July, 1589. The good landlady of the 'Catherine Wheel' suffered also for her hospitality to the martyrs; she was condemned to the loss of all her goods and to perpetual imprisonment².

In the *Calendar of State Papers Domestic*, 1603-10, p. 634, we find:—

'Grant to certain persons of the benefit of the recusancy of Augustine Belson, co. Oxford, 1610.'

Forty years later an Augustine Belson compounded for his estate at Brill, and one of the same name lived in Rome between the years 1646-50. His name is recorded in the 'Pilgrim Book' of the English Hospital as several times dining in the Refectory³.

'Sept. 1652. Augustine Belson, Recusant, Brill, and the Claimants on and Lessees of his Estate. County Committee of Berks certify their letting his estate to William Mynne for 6 years at £231; two-thirds to the State and one-third to the Recusant. William Lewis for his wife, the heir of John Denham, begs allowance of his title to a fee farm rent out of £30 charged on lands in Brill by John and Katherine Denham, 29th Elizabeth, for Will. Belson, ancestor of Augustine Belson.

Claims for grand-daughter, whom he married, of the said Denham.—Allowed.'

'Thomas Child of Northwick, co. Worcester, and William Mynne of Somerton, co. Oxon., for Catherine and other children of Augustine Belson, beg allowance of a demise by Belson in Sept. last, of lands in Brill, Oakley, &c., co. Bucks., in trust but now sequestered for Belson's supposed recusancy though he never refused the oath of Abjuration. Referred to County Committee⁴.'

¹ The 'Catherine Wheel' stood on the site of the new part of Balliol College, opposite the churchyard of St. Mary Magdalen, north side.

² Drawn from Challoner.

³ See Foley, vol. vi.

⁴ *Calendar for Compounding*, Part iv, p. 3041.

Belson was probably dead, and 'had never refused the oath' as it had not been proffered to him, being abroad for so long.

In 1867 the name of Austin Belson occurs as one of the Catholic Fellows admitted to Magdalen College by the command of James II, and subsequently removed from the books, with all the other Catholic names, by the Visitor of the College¹.

Whether the two intercepted letters noticed below are from him or from another Austin, for it seems to have been the favourite name in the family, the reader must judge :—

‘Hull, *March* 8, 1703-4.

Sir

I was goeing over from hence to Holland in order to stay there till I had adjusted and paid my debts and having noe Pass am here detayn'd by Coll. Gilby and the Mayor of this town as a suspected Person disaffected to the Government. The favour I have humbly to beg of you is that you'lbe pleased to give yr self the trouble to acquaint my Ld. Nottingham who I am and what you know of me; I doe assure you I have noe other intention than to abscond from my debts till I can pay them wh. I will doe to ye utmost of my power and all ways acknowledge this favour who am,

yrs obliged humble servant

AUSTIN BELSON.

For God's sake bee soe kind to lett me heare from you, To mee, at your post house in Hull, Yorkshire.

To Richard Neville, Esqre. Knight of the Shire for Berks at the House of Commons, London².'

Another similar letter was addressed by Belson, the same day, to Tanfield Vachell, Esq., Member of Parliament, at the House of Commons.

'Aston Rowant, The Vicar presents Maurice Belson, Esq., and Mary his wife, together with Elizabeth Allen and Elizabeth Brent their servants, for being reputed Papists. The said Maurice Belson has about £200 in this parish³.'

The same occurs for Stokenchurch. 'This Maurice Belson was father to another Maurice Belson, Esq., who by Mrs. M. Perkins was father of John⁴.'

The elder Maurice died in 1708 and was buried at Stokenchurch.

¹ *Magdalen College and James II*, Bundle 3, in Record Office, No. 119. O. H. S., p. 265.

² *State Papers Domestic*, Anne,

³ *Stonyhurst MS.*

⁴ Delafield, u. s.

Evidently his family left Aston Rowant and retired to Brill, for in 1716 we find :—

‘Maurice Belson of Brill, Esq. Estate for life at Aston Rowant, Tenant Peter Seamore. £246 2s. od.’

‘Maurice Belson, Freehold estate at Brill; Augustine and John Belson granting leases there in 1676. £482 8s. od.¹’

The younger Maurice married into the Perkins family and left a son at his death, in 1721, John, who in 1749 sold his estate at Brill, which he had derived from his ancestors in Bernwood Forest, to Sir Thomas Snell, Knt.; his house was demolished and sold for the materials, and being unmarried and a Roman Catholic, he retired into foreign parts².

In Brill Church, upon a mural tablet, is this inscription :—

‘Near this place lieth the body of Mary Belson, wife of Maurice Belson of this parish of Brill, Esq., who died May 6th, 1715, eldest daughter of Richard Perkins, of Beenham, co. Berks., Esq. Her great charity to the poor has, we hope, in the mercy of God, rendered her happy in heaven and left her memory precious upon earth. Her afflicted husband put up this stone. May she rest in peace.’

‘Mrs. Mary Belson died 6th May, 1715.’

‘Mrs. Bridget Belson died 21st April, 1716.’

‘Mr. Maurice Belson died 9th Aug. 1721³.’

In the *State Papers Domestic*, under the year 1667, we find: ‘License of John Belson and John Austen to go and remain beyond seas for three years for the better improvement of their studies.’ In the same records for the years 1689–91 there are several entries relating to John and Augustine Belson; John and Maurice, passes to go into Flanders, and also to Augustine apprehended on suspicion of high treason and imprisoned.

A certain Mr. John Belson, who perhaps is the person referred to by Gillow in the *Dictionary* as very much esteemed for his knowledge of history, &c., and who was still living in 1688, was probably the father of Sister Constantia Belson of the Augustinian Nuns of Louvain. He managed some of the Convent affairs, and in 1703 onwards it is recorded that ‘money began to be taken out of Mr. Belson’s rent to pay for his great pack of writings.’

Shortly after this a Catholic family of the name appears in the Winchester Register.

¹ Cosin’s *List* and Payne’s *Non-Jurors*.

² Delafield, u. s.

³ Catholic Register of Waterperry.

CHINNOR

In Cosin's *List*, 1716, Roboaldo Fieschi, Esq., is returned for Chinnor as holding the 'Fee-simple of estate in Chinnor and Winnall, the latter in lease to John Dutton, by his mother Fieschi, and subject to an annuity of £15 os. 0d. each to Mary and Frances Flatman, daughters of his said mother.' 'Mary and Frances Flatman, spinsters as above, £30 os. 0d.' The same return is also made for East Claydon and Granborough, co. Bucks. The Fieschi family were Italian and noble, and to them belonged both Pope Innocent IV and St. Catherine of Genoa. Roboaldo Fieschi married into the Brinkhurst family, who were connexions of the Cursons of Waterperry, and were principally a Buckinghamshire family, but 'John Brinkhurst, gent., is returned for Lewkenore for £41 10s. 0d. per an.' in the list of Papists (1706) kept at Woodstock.

GREAT MILTON

In this large parish are comprised several small manor-places for country seats which must claim our attention, although it only be in a passing or cursory manner.

Here, in this parish at Chilworth, the first chapel kept open by the Simeons was to be found; their house, which was called 'The Comb,' was burnt down in 1739 with all the granaries. A 'Brief' was granted for this fire, which fact shows a very tolerant spirit among the neighbours and good feeling towards their popish fellow parishioners².

At Romaine's Court, north-west of the church, dwelt Robert Edgerley, who married a Belson of Aston Rowant; four of their children are buried in the church with quaint little brasses. 'Romaine's' was the Manor Farm belonging to the Prebendary of Milton, and it was let to Edgerley, the 'Farmer' of the said Prebendary, for sixty years³. The Edgerleys, or Eggerley, were the carriers of the day between Oxford and London, and they put up in Oxford at the stables in Magpie Lane, now Grove Lane⁴.

The large farm-house adjoining the churchyard on the north was

¹ *Louvain Records*.

² Ellis, u. s., p. 45.

³ *Some Account of Milton*, by T. Ellis, Vicar, p. 33.

⁴ Wood, *Life and Times*, vol. i.

where Sir Francis Curson lived during his father's lifetime¹. It is said to have belonged to the Zouches, and one of their daughters married More of Bampton (called in their pedigree Louch²). It is possible that this house, which stands in its old fore-court with Jacobean gateway, might yield interesting matter to those loving the old Catholic traditions, could it be examined. No doubt the family had their chapel and priest's room in the roof.

At Milton also dwelt John Milton, the poet. He was entirely an Oxfordshire man, his father belonging to Stanton St. John. The house of four gables still stands a little off the high road just opposite to the town well. The report that Milton died a Catholic appears to rest upon the following information, but is not confirmed:—

'Milton the Poet died a Papist. "Dr. Charlette, Master of University College, told me lately at Bath, that he remembers to have heard from Dr. Binks that he was at an entertainment in King James' reign when Sir Xtph Milton, one of the Judges and elder brother to the famous Mr. Milton the Poet, was present; that the Judge did say publicly his brother was a Papist some years before he died and that he died so." I am still more persuaded of it from what Dr. English told me that he had often heard Mr. Prior the poet say that the Earl of Dorset told him the same thing³.'

On the other hand, Mr. William Joyner, who also had known him, declares that he did not die a Catholic⁴.

SHIRBURN

The family of Chamberlain settled at Shirburn in the sixteenth century, and many members of the family held high offices under the crown in the county of Oxon., as Rangers of Woodstock Park, &c.⁵

In the reign of James I, John Chamberlain died, leaving his estates to his two daughters, co-heiresses; Mary, married first to Sir Thomas Gage, Bart., of Firle, and secondly to Sir William Goring of Burton, both in Surrey; and Elizabeth, who married John Neville, Lord Abergavenny. One at least of the younger branches of the Chamber-

¹ List of Papists, July, 1706: 'Gt. Milton, Francis Courzon, Esqre.'

² Ellis, u. s., p. 33.

³ 7th Report Hist. MSS., p. 244.

⁴ See Hearne's *Collections*, O. H. S., vol. i.

⁵ See *History of Three Oxfordshire Parishes*, O. H. S.

lains remained Catholic. A son of Leonard, the Governor of Guernsey, who died in 1560, is thus mentioned:—

‘A list of the names and arrivals in Madrid of certain Englishmen; pensions given by the King of Spain, Aug. 1574.’

‘Dec. 10, 1571. George Chamberlain, 300 ducats with entertainment—for Flanders; left Feb. 29, 1572.’

‘Sept. 1573. George Chamberlain returned, 300 ducats; left for Flanders, Dec. 1573¹.’

‘Mr. Chamberlain liveth at Gaunt and there is married. He hath by patten lately £100 yearly from the King of Spain.’

Of his second son we read in Wood:—

‘Dr. George Chamberlain was born at Gaunt 1576, his mother being a Dutch lady. He was Canon, Archdeacon and Dean of St. Bavon’s in Ghent, and in 1626 succeeded to the Bishoprick of Ipres. About that time his family resided at Sherborne in Oxon.; the estates having fallen to an heiress, she married John Neville (Lord Abergavenny), and Dr. Chamberlain being the next heir male, came to England, not so much to put in his claim, as to resign it in order to confirm the title of the heiress and shut out other pretenders².’

Dr. Chamberlain died in 1634. His tomb in the Cathedral of Ipres bears the following epitaph: ‘Hic jacet Georgius sextus Iprensis Episcopus, vixit Annos LVIII, Mens. I, Dies XVIII, obiit XIX Dec. MDCXXXIV.’

John, Lord Abergavenny, died without issue in 1662, leaving his widow, Elizabeth Chamberlain, and the estates in heavy debt. His brother George, ninth Baron, seems to have lived for a time at Shirburn, as Wood³, in remarking upon an earthquake which had occurred there, adds ‘where Lord Abergavenny lives.’ This was in January, 1665. George, Lord Abergavenny, died in 1665, and immediately the family affairs were laid before the House of Lords for settlement.

‘House of Lords, 1666. Dec. 5th. Lord Abergavenny’s bill. Act for empowering John Lord Abergavenny to sell certain lands for payment of debts, &c.: and for ascertaining the dower of Elizabeth, Lady Dowager Abergavenny. Petition of Robert Loggin of Wincott, Cliffords Chambers, Gloucestershire, about the said bill. Petition of the Honble. Mrs. Frances Neville. Provision was to have been made for her in Lord Abergavenny’s bill, but some stop was made to the proceedings, which if continued will make her irrecoverably miserable, as she has not otherwise the least hope

¹ *State Papers Domestic*, Elizabeth, 1566, 1579, p. 467.

² *Athenae*, ed. Bliss, vol. i, p. 385.

³ *Life and Times*, vol. ii, p. 54.

of any subsistence for the future. She prays that such provision may be made for her as was intended by George late Lord Abergavenny¹.

The two widows mentioned here were sisters-in-law, Mrs. Frances Neville being the widow of Thomas Neville, elder brother of John, the husband of Elizabeth Chamberlain, and also widow of Sir Basil Brook, and as such had a charge settled upon her from the North Aston property.

¹ House of Lords, *March* 18, 1678-9. Lady Abergavenny, Privilege.

Petitioner Elizabeth (Dowager) Lady Abergavenny complaining of having been prosecuted with her servants for Recusancy at a time within the Privilege of Parliament and praying that the presentment may be discharged².

² House of Lords, *Nov.* 22, 1680. Popish Plot (Lady Abergavenny). Report of Thomas Hunt, Thomas Merry, Edmund Warcup, and Thomas Pennington, to the Committee of Examinations, stating that they had perused a trunkful of papers belonging to Lady Abergavenny, and found that by three letters of John Todd, there was a correspondence between her ladyship and Mr. Harcourt (the Jesuit as they suppose) and that a letter of Mr. Bedingfield mentioned a sum of 200 florins paid in 1663 to the Dunkirk ladies; but that the other papers were not material. . . . Lady Abergavenny had been ordered to be arrested and her papers seized on 11 Nov., on information given against her by Francisco de Feria. On 8 Dec. he again reported that he had enquired at the council for the papers but they told him they were here, and here it was said they were at the Commons. He had been there and found none. He thought there was not full evidence for an indictment. He could put one in, but if it were not found she would be acquitted of the treason³.

De Feria being the only witness against her, the prosecution stopped. Her trunk of papers was ordered to be given to Lady Goring. After the death of Elizabeth, Lady Abergavenny, before 1694, Shirburn Castle went to her sister, Lady Gage.

Mary, the co-heiress of Shirburn, married Sir Thomas Gage, of Firle, and had four sons, the youngest of whom, Joseph, inherited this property, whose eldest son became the first Viscount Gage, and his second, Joseph, embarking in commerce, being ruined, but regaining a fortune, became a grandee of Spain. Lady Gage married secondly Sir Henry Goring.

The elder son married the daughter of Benedict Hall, of High

¹ *8th Report Hist. MSS.*, p. 104 a.

³ *11th Report Hist. MSS.*, App. ii,

² *11th Report Hist. MSS.*, App., p. 206.

Meadow and of Noke, whose family we have already had before us; their name is mentioned as owning property at Berwick Salome at the same time that the servants of Joseph Gage at Shirburn were returned as papists. Evidently in 1706 the family were not resident at Shirburn. In 1716 the house and property were sold to Thomas Parker, Earl of Macclesfield.

To Sir Henry Gage the following elegy was penned. It consists of several stanzas. The first:—

‘With foreign trophies crowned, o’er prest with bays.’

The last:—

‘Rebels comply betimes else you may see
Twelve Gages more as learn’d and stout as he¹.’

SCOLES FAMILY.

The old house of the Scoles lies about a mile from Shirburn Castle; here the family lived for about two centuries, and although they abandoned the old place about fifty years ago they are still the owners of it. It is now inhabited by Lord Macclesfield’s agent, and used as the Home Farm. The family tradition says that they came from Milton Windmill; their registrations are to be found for a time, in the Britwell Catholic Register, and several tombstones exist in Shirburn Churchyard.

PIRTON

‘Matthew Haskey of Pirton, leases there for lives of self, Mary his wife and James their son. 2s. 6d.²’

The Catholic Register of Stonor, now at Somerset House, contains the entries of births, &c., of this family; they were connected with the Davys of Overy.

In Pirton Church was to be seen a tombstone with this inscription:—

‘Of your charity pray for the soulys of Thomas Simeon sometyne Fermour of Purton yeoman and Margaret his wife. Which Thomas died the XXIII day of August M.D. XXII, on whose soulys Jesu have Mercy³’

¹ 4th Report Hist. MSS., p. 236 seq., signed M. L. L. In the collection of the Marquis of Bath.

² Payne’s *Non-Jurors*, p. 212.

³ Wood MSS., C 10 (Bodleian).

SWINCOMBE AND EWELME¹

Ewelme had always been a royal manor, and fell, with all the Suffolk lands in Oxfordshire, to Alice, Duchess of Suffolk; it was again in the hands of the crown by the death of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk. On the 14th June, 1509, Anthony Fetyplace, Esquire of the Royal body, was appointed Steward of the lands called 'Suffolk's lands' in the county of Oxford, and Master of the hunt in Ewelme Park.

In January, 1609, in a survey of the manor of Ewelme, it is said that Sir Edmund Fetyplace held by letters patent, dated 9th June, 1590-1, made to Sir John Fortescue, 'all the site of the manor of Swyncombe with the appurtenances, mansion house, &c.'

In February, 1627, the trustees of the Crown assigned to Edward Fetyplace, of Lincoln's Inn, Esq., and William Bartwell, &c., the manor of Swyncombe, for the residue of a term of ninety-nine years vested in them, reserving a rent of £9 per annum. On the 10th of July in the same year the manor was sold by King Charles to five gentlemen, of whom Francis Fetyplace was one; later on Fetyplace acquired the whole property and made Swincombe his residence.

This Francis Fetyplace married Dorothy Yate, of Buckland, and their joint armorial bearings were to be seen upon the old mansion of Swincombe. The three daughters of Bartholomew Fetyplace, son of the above (who died and was buried at Swincombe in May, 1686), became his sole heirs—Mary, Dorothy, and Katherine. Mary married Sir John Caryl of Harting, Dorothy died single; each receiving an equivalent in money, relinquished in 1694 the whole estate to the second sister, Katherine, wife to Charles, fifth Lord Dormer, of Peterley and Wing, co. Bucks.

Bartholomew Fetyplace had married a second time, Margaret, the second daughter of Sir Edward Mostyn, of Telacre, and sister to Father John Mostyn, S.J., who served the Oxfordshire district. After a few years of widowhood, and being without children, she retired to a convent abroad, first to the Poor Clares at Rouen, then to the Benedictines at Dunkirk, and finally to the Theresian nuns at Lier in Brabant, where she made her profession as Sister Margaret Theresa in 1694. It is told of her young days that her parents took her and her younger sister Anne to Paris for their education, and remained

¹ See Napier's *History of Swincombe and Ewelme*, pp. 198-219.

there for some years to escape the agitation caused in England by 'Oates's Plot.' When the time came to remove the girls from school, Sir Edward and Lady Mostyn went with them to Lier to visit Sir Edward's two sisters, who were nuns at that house. Little Anne was pleased to remain, but Margaret was careful to tell her aunt, who was then Prioress, that nothing should ever induce her to become a Carmelite. However, as events turned out, she made her ultimate home in that very house¹. The Community of Lier are now living at Darlington. In 1715 we read that she was followed to Brabant by the agents of the Government *re* her jointure upon her husband's estate².

'Margaret Fettyplace, annuity out of Swyncombe. Samuel Verney of St. Anne's Westminster, Vintner, maketh oath that he and John Blisset, late of St. Andrew's Holborn, shoemaker deceased, went lately into Flanders in order to be witnesses to the execution of a letter of Attorney by Mrs. Margaret Fettiplace resident at Lier in Flanders, to empower John Brooke and Francis Heywood, gents.; to register her name in pursuance of the Act: and that the said John Blisset returned from Flanders to London on the 17th Sept. last in seeming good health, when the said J. B. some few days after fell sick and died the 2nd Oct.: and that George Todd, the other witness to the said letter of Attorney, is a person dwelling in Flanders and did not come into England with the deponent and the said J. B., but still remains in Flanders as this deponent verily believes, and that it is not practicable to send for him so as to have him present as a witness at the Michaelmas Sessions, the same being so near at hand.'

Margaret Fetyplace, Sister Margaret Theresa, seems to have been a person of considerable character and of a bright and lively disposition. Upon the death of her last surviving aunt she became Prioress, and under her government the Community removed into another house in the town. The Duke of Marlborough was then in Flanders, and we are told that his friendship and influence were of great help to the nuns in the many difficulties of their position. Her death happened while her sisters were preparing to celebrate her jubilee in religion, and she died in February, 1743-4, aged 85.

We have already seen that in the same year of the religious profession of Mrs. M. Fetyplace, 1694, an arrangement had been made in the family settling the estate upon Katherine, Lady Dormer. The Dormers were absentee landlords, for we find in the *History of Swin-*

¹ For notice of Mrs. M. Fetyplace, see 25th vol. of *Quarterly Series*; also

The Month, June, 1878, by Father Coleridge, S.J. ² Cosin's *List*.

combe that 'the Lord Dormer nor none of his family, since his father-in-law's death, Mr. Fettiplace, resided at Swyncombe.' At any rate, some of the poorer folk still gathered round the chapel here. The *Stonyhurst MS.* (1706) gives us the names of 'Grace Stevens, widow ; Martha Plasden, widow ; Margaret Harding, widow ; Elizabeth Hussey the wife of John Hussey, all poor people.' Who inhabited the mansion we do not know.

Lord Dormer married secondly Elizabeth Biddulph, and we accordingly find: '1715, Charles, Lord Dormer, Baron of Wing, Estate entailed at Swyncombe to Elizabeth his wife for life and his sons afterwards, £150 2s. *od.*'

Lord Dormer died in 1728, and his eldest son, Charles, succeeded as sixth Baron. Being a priest, he had no family interest in this place, and sold it in 1732 to Samuel Greenfield, of Warfield, co. Berks., for the sum of £13,966 16s. *od.* The old Manor House shared the fate of many another and was burnt down on the 2nd March, 1814, while the servants were preparing for their master's home-coming. It was at that time the property of Mr. Benjamin Keene, of Weston Lodge, Cambridge: the house has since been rebuilt.

EWELME

This royal manor was granted to 'Sir Thomas Howard, Knt., and Charles Howard, Esq., sons of the first Earl of Suffolk, in 1609, for the term of their lives and the longer liver of them, as Keepers of his Majesty's Manor of Newelme, *alias* Ewelme, in the co. of Oxon., and of the Park there . . . and of the office of Constable of the Castle of Wallingford, parcel of the Manor of Ewelme, in reversion after the death or surrender of Lord Knollys who now holdeth the same office¹.'

Sir Thomas Howard was created Viscount Andover in 1621-2 and Earl of Berkshire in 1625-6. He died at a very advanced age, leaving his son Charles, second Earl of Berkshire, 1660. It is with the ladies of this family that we are now concerned, as there is every reason to believe that they were very intimately mixed up with Catholics, if not

¹ Lord Wallingford and Banbury had the fee farm of Ewelme Park in 1619.

themselves entirely so ; and there can therefore be no reason to doubt the existence of the chapel and all belonging to it at Ewelme House. We are told that :—

‘My Lord of Suffolk married in one day three daughters, first to the Lord Knolles, second to the Earl of Essex, third to the young Earl of Salisbury¹.’

This must mean the betrothals, as the marriages were upon different dates.

(1) Elizabeth, Lady Knollys, was the wife of William, Lord Knollys of Greys, Viscount Wallingford, and Earl of Banbury. She was a Catholic, and well known as such, and was fond of intrigues. Her name will be remembered in connexion with her son, the second Earl of Banbury.

‘1628, May 8. William, Earl of Banbury, Lord Lieut. of Oxon, wife and family “recusants”².’

In 1628 we find these names of Jesuits and their domiciles :—

‘Mr. Lovell *alias* Weeden, eldest son to Mr. Ployden, was lately in Newgate, but got out through the Countess of Buckingham ; Mr. Fisher, *alias* “Joannes,” a jesuit living with the Countess of Bucks ; Mr. Ferar, *alias* Gray, living with the Countess of Banbury : he is Secretary to the See Apostolic³.’

(2) Frances, Lady Essex, married, when about fourteen, Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, he being about fifteen, on January 5, 1605–6. They were divorced in October, 1613, and she married Robert Kerr, Earl of Somerset, upon December 26 in the same year. Somerset and she were arraigned before the House of Lords for being concerned in the death of Sir Thomas Overbury, and were for some time in the Tower. In 1621 Somerset was confined in the house of his brother-in-law, Lord Wallingford⁴. Lady Somerset was imprisoned, with Lady Mary Howard, her sister, and Mrs. Turner, the doctor’s wife, for poisoning Overbury, who had gained Lady Frances’s ill-will by protesting against her treatment of her first husband⁵. She was attacked by a most dreadful disease, and died, forsaken by her friends, in 1632, her husband surviving until 1645.

¹ 10th Report Hist. MSS., App. vi, p. 314.
p. 83.

² 13th Report Hist. MSS., p. 1.

³ State Papers Domestic, 1625 to 1649,

⁴ 7th Report, u. s., a long account.

⁵ Court and Times of James I.

(3) Catherine married, December 1, 1608, William Cecil, second Earl of Salisbury, 'very privately.' She died in 1672-3, and was buried at Hatfield.

The brother of these ladies was Charles, second Earl of Berkshire. As Viscount Andover he married Dorothy, daughter of Sir Thomas Savage and Lady Elizabeth Darcy. She and her sisters were Catholics, and we trace them thus:—

(1) Dorothy, married Viscount Andover, who became second Earl of Berkshire in 1660. She was buried at Ewelme in 1691, aged 80.

(2) Jane married, in 1622, John, Marquis of Winchester. She died a Catholic, in 1631, her death being due to the lancing of an abscess in her cheek¹. Milton wrote her epitaph:—

‘This rich marble doth inter
The honour’d wife of Winchester.’

(3) Catherine, a nun at Ghent, O.S.B. Professed in 1638 as Dame Constantia. She was one of the foundresses of the Monastery at Dunkirk, 1662.

(4) Henrietta Maria, married Ralph Sheldon, of Beoley.

And other sisters.

Their nephew, John, second Viscount Savage and fourth Earl Rivers, had a daughter Catherine, married to Sir Charles Sedley. She being deranged, lived for many years in the Convent at Ghent, where her aunt was a nun. She died there in 1705. Sir Charles Sedley, being a person of notoriously evil life, married again during her lifetime.

‘Hic jacet perillustris domina Catherina Savage, illustrissimi Comitis de Rivers Filia, et perillustris Domini Caroli Sedley Equitis Aurati Conjux cujus memoriae grati obsequii monumentum hoc posuit pius affectus. Obiit 1 Julii 1705. R.I.P.’²

The fifth Earl Rivers, brother to Lady Sedley, became a priest, and the titles all died with him.

‘A.D. 1715: “that John Savage, now Earl Rivers, is a popish secular priest, and receives £500 per an. from James Earl of Barrimore”³.’

¹ *Complete Peerage*.

³ His niece’s husband. *Payne’s Re-*

² *The Benedictines of Ghent*, now Oulton. *cords*, p. 127.

To return to Charles, second Earl of Berkshire. By Lady D. Savage he had three sons, who died young, and two daughters, one of whom became Lady Bedingfield, of Oxborough. The Earl died in Paris 1679, without surviving male issue, and his brother Thomas, third Earl of Berkshire, succeeded him ; he left a daughter, Frances, who again married into a Catholic family, marrying Sir Henry Winchcombe, of Bucklebury. The third Earl also died without male issue in 1706.

Dorothy, Lady Berkshire, must have returned from Paris upon her husband's death, as she was buried at Ewelme in 1691. After this all Catholic interest in the place seems to cease.

PART VI. SECTION III

BRITWELL PRIOR, *ALIAS* BRIGHTWELL

FAMILIES OF SIMEON AND WELD



BRITWELL PRIOR

THIS ancient Mission, one of those enumerated in the list served by the Jesuits in 1620, owed its existence and maintenance to the Simeon family, who possessed extensive estates in this part of Oxfordshire.

Towards the end of Elizabeth's reign John Simeon married the daughter and co-heiress of Anthony Mollins, of Chinnor, and died in the fifteenth year of James I. His two sons were both knighted; the second, Sir John, was admitted to the English College at Rome in 1611, aged twenty, and was known by the *alias* of 'Sellinger¹.' The elder son, Sir George Simeon², by his first wife, an heiress of the Vaux family, had two daughters, one of whom, Elizabeth, married Edmund Butler, afterwards Lord Mountgarret, and stepson to the old Lady Mountgarret, of Yarnton. Through their descent from Elizabeth Simeon and Edmund Butler, the Browne-Mostyns of Kiddington claimed and obtained the Barony of Vaux. Sir George's second wife was the mother of his five sons. The eldest became a Jesuit, Father Edward Simeon, *alias* Smith³. We may suppose Father Simeon to have served his own mission at Britwell while in this district; we have no record of the three intervening brothers, but James Simeon, who was known at college as Molyneux, his mother's name, we find was styled of Chilworth in the parish of Milton. Sir James married and continued the family, and was created a Baronet by Charles II in

¹ Foley, vol. vi, p. 260.

6 Nov. 1604, Sir George Symons.'

² *Book of Knights*: 'At Whitehall,

³ Foley, vols. iv, vi, vii.

1677, during his brother's lifetime, his wife being the heiress of Walter Hevingham, of Aston, co. Stafford. It is most probable that Sir James lived at Aston, and that Britwell House fell to decay; in 1706 we read that there were no popish Recusants at Britwell, and none at Britwell Salome, which is part of this parish of Britwell Prior. So Dr. Richard Vesey, the Rector, makes the return. These two negative returns must stand as they are, and the lack of Catholics in Britwell Prior remain unexplained. Sir James died about the year 1709, and was succeeded by his only son, Sir Edward Simeon, the last of the family. We find him living in Staffordshire for some years.

'Lichfield. Sir Edward Simeon of Aston in parish of Stone, co. Stafford, Bart: son of Sir James Simeon; Manor of Aston; his grandfather Walter Heveningham lessor in 1641. Freehold estate at Bix, Oxon., £784 15s. od.¹

Sir Edward never married; he rebuilt the house at Britwell Prior, which was finished in 1728, and he 'came to settle at the same on the 23rd Oct., 1729.'

Towards the end of his life he began to build the exterior chapel. The old register tells us:—

'The new oval chappel was begun on the 30th March 1767. The whole plan both within and without was contrived by Sir E. Simeon himself, and would have been completely finished this year, 1769, had it pleased God to have prolonged his life. What he lived to see finished of the same falls little short of the whole and cost not less than a thousand pounds sterling.'

He died at Britwell House 'on the 23rd Dec., 1768, after nine days' illness, at the age of eighty-six years and five months to the day².' He was buried in Staffordshire by his own desire.

'Sir Edward Simeon, of Britwell Prior near Watlington, desires burial at Aston, co. Stafford, and names Edward and Thomas, elder and younger sons of his nephew Edward Weld, and his niece Elizabeth Bridget Weld—15th June 1764; proved 28 Jan. 1769³.'

Sir Edward's only sister, Margaret, had married Mr. Humphrey Weld, of Lulworth Castle, co. Dorset, and was the mother of the above Edward Weld of Lulworth, and of Thomas, who took the name of Simeon with the Britwell estate.

¹ Payne's *Non-Jurors*, p. 213.

² Catholic Register of Britwell.

³ Payne's *Records*, p. 63.

THE WELDS AT BRITWELL.

1768. Mr. Thomas Weld-Simeon does not appear to have survived his uncle very long; his wife died in 1767, leaving an only daughter, Mary, a nun in the Poor Clare Convent at Aire, and who returned to England with her Community in 1799¹. At Britwell a household of servants was left at Sir Edward's death, and in 1771 Mr. Thomas Weld is mentioned as having visited the place. He was nephew to Mr. Thomas Weld-Simeon, and marrying in 1772, came to live at Britwell. Three children were born here: '1773, Dec., Juliana Maria; 1775, Jan., Maria Theresa; 1775, Dec., Edward².' This Edward died at Stonyhurst, Jan. 17, 1796³. This year (1775) Mr. Weld succeeded to the Lulworth estate and left Britwell.

The house was now let to Mr. Joseph Blount, second son of Mr. Blount of Mapledurham; he married Miss Mary Canning of Foxcote, co. Warwick. Their children born here were: '1780, Joseph; 1781, Frances; 1783, Michael⁴.' Mr. Blount died at St. Cyr, near Lyons.

THE POOR CLARES AT BRITWELL HOUSE.

The Poor Clares of Aire in Artois were a branch of the Mother House at Gravelines; they settled at Aire in 1629. Upon the breaking out of the French Revolution they were imprisoned in their own convent for a considerable time, and their chaplain, Father Pacificus Kington, having been twice in prison, the nuns were left without any spiritual help for fifteen months. In the autumn of 1799 they obtained passports, and joined Father Pacificus at St. Omer on August 14, arriving at last safely in London. Here they remained a month. Mary Weld, Sister Euphrasia, one of the Community as already mentioned, was the only sister of Mr. Thomas Weld, of Lulworth; he took compassion upon her and her religious sisters, and offered them Britwell House. This they thankfully accepted, and they made it their home for fifteen years. Four sisters were professed while living here and one died: 'Sister Anne Joachim Harcourt, O.S.C., at Britwell House, 13 Aug. 1810, aged 70; rel. 42⁵.' Mr. Weld dying suddenly at Stonyhurst, in 1810, the Community found themselves under the necessity of looking out for another house, and by the help of friends they found and purchased one at Coxside,

¹ Now settled at Taunton.

⁴ Catholic Register, u.s.

² Catholic Register, u.s.

⁵ Catholic Directory.

³ Foley, vol. v, p. 807.

near Plymouth, whither the Abbess, with a few sisters and their chaplain, removed on August 13, 1813, the remainder of the nuns following as soon as convenient. They left Coxside in May, 1834, for the Mother House at Gravelines¹, where only two sisters remained; but their desire of settling in that town not succeeding, they all left together and joined the Scorton Community in Yorkshire in October, 1836. In 1857 the Community migrated to the new Abbey near Darlington, and there in 1892 the last of the Britwell sisters died, aged 97. While at Britwell, Cardinal Weld visited the nuns and made them a present of an organ. Apartments were kept ready in the house for the use of any of the family of Weld when they should wish to spend a short time there, and Mr. Weld used to bring his valet, John Palmer, who afterwards became Abbot of St. Bernard's, Leicestershire, with him. Abbot Palmer attributed his call to the religious life to the example of one of the sisters and at whose grave at Scorton he was wont to pray².

THE WELDS'S RETURN.

The Poor Clares having left Britwell in 1813, the house was again occupied by a member of the Weld family. Mr. James Weld, the seventh son of the owner, came to live here upon his marriage. Here several of his children were born, but the register fails us.

The house was sold about the year 1832 to Mr. W. Lowndes Stone, of Brightwell Park. The chapel has been used since that time as a billiard-room³.

BRITWELL CATHOLIC REGISTER.

This is a small quarto volume entitled 'Britwell Chappel Register, 1769.' The whole of it appears to have been written by the Rev. Mr. Bruning, the chaplain, who divides the book into 'Memoranda.' The '*First Memorandum*':—

'Britwell House was compleated in the year of our Lord 1728. Sir Edward Simeon, Bart., the Founder came first to settle at the same the 23rd Oct. 1729.'

¹ '1834, May 28th. The Nunnery at Coxside broken up, and the sisterhood, who had been reduced to seven, all advanced in years, embarked on board the schooner *Minerva*, for Gravelines in France.' Jewitt, *History of Ply-*

mouth, p. 407.

² From information given by the Abbess at Darlington, and Oliver's *Collections*.

³ Information from the Rector of Britwell Prior, Mr. Willis.

Here follows a list of three chaplains with the dates of their first coming:—

William Brown	O.S. 23rd Oct. 1729.
John Richardson, S.J.	6th Aug. 1751.
George Bruning, S.J..	N.S. 25th June, 1765.

The '*Second Memorandum*' is the list of the villages around attending the Missions, viz. 'Britwell, Chinnor, Ewelme, Ipsden, Sherbourne, Watlington, Dorchester, Burcot, Wallingford, Overy.'

Next comes a list of persons who died before 1765, which is given upon hearsay, no written account having been kept. Mr. Bruning's own knowledge begins at the death of Mr. Richardson, his predecessor, on June 25, 1765, at Britwell House, aged 57. The inference may be that Mr. Bruning was attending him in his illness and immediately took his place.

Here follow the list of admissions into the Church, baptisms, confirmations, and marriages. Confirmations were held twice—once in 1770 and again in 1782.

The '*Third Memorandum*' is the account of the new Chapel.

The list which follows gives sixty-four persons as belonging to the congregation in 1769, the year following the death of Sir Edward Simeon, the House being empty. This includes Overy. Mr. Bruning quaintly winds up his synopsis with the '*Fourth Memorandum*,' which has been already quoted on p. 247:—

'The Catholics in and about Dorchester had formerly a Missioner residing among 'em; but as they have no longer that help, and would otherwise be destitute, Charity can't consider 'em but as part of this Congregation. At Overy is to be found all necessary Altar-Furniture. The same has been made use of regularly seven times throughout the year; i. e. some week day during each Indulgence Term, or thereabouts.'

Here ends the Register, the last entry being the baptism of John Davey, of Overy, in 1788.

The nuns were served by their own chaplains; and as Haseley fell into the Britwell Mission in 1768, so Britwell was merged in Watperry about the year 1796.

BRITWELL PRIESTS (CHAPLAINS).

1729. 'William Brown, "Sacerdos." First coming, 23rd Oct., O. S. He died at Britwell House, 3rd Nov., 1750¹.'

1751. 'John Richardson, S.J. First coming, 6th Aug., O. S. His real name was Shuttleworth, born in Lancashire, 1708.' Served in this district, where he was Superior. 'Will; Devisees or executors, Francis Pool, of Waterperry, and Gilbert Wells, of Dorchester, 30 Jan., 1752.' Died, aged 57, at Britwell House, 1765².

1765. 'George Bruning, S.J. First coming, 25th June, N. S.' Father George Bruning was son of Edmund Bruning, of Winchester, by his second wife, Elizabeth Henslow. Her family name occurs in the returns of Catholic estates for the counties of Sussex and Hampshire. In Oliver's *Biography of the Jesuits*, Father Bruning is said to have been brother to the eminent theologian, Father Anthony Bruning. His first mission was at Soberton, Hants, and for several years he lived at East Hendred, Berks. Mr. John Thomas Eyston had married his half-sister, Mary Bruning. By another alliance of the Eystons, with the family of Hawkins of Nash Court, Father Bruning was connected with the Cursons of Waterperry. Foley (vol. vii) mentions seven Fathers of this family. One of them may be of interest in this history as bearing the *alias* names of two of our county families: 'Francis Bruning, brother to George of Britwell, *alias* Hyde, *alias* Grimsditch.' Oliver calls him Francis Hyde.

The Register at Britwell is apparently written entirely by the hand of Father George Bruning, but if so he must have been invalided part of the time, as we see from the presence of other chaplains. His last entry is in 1788, and his final years were spent at Isleworth, where he died. His body must have been removed to his brother-in-law's house for burial, for in the church of East Hendred, in the Eyston aisle, a tablet upon the wall runs:—

'To the Memory of the Rev. George Bruning, who departed this life the 5th day of June, 1802, aged 66 years. Requiescat in pace³.'

Whilst F. Bruning was invalided we find in the Bishop's Confirmation Book that Confirmation was given at Britwell on the 3rd June, 1770, when R. D. Carolus Blount signs as pastor; and again on

¹ Britwell Catholic Register.

³ Clark's *Hundred of Wanting*,

² See Register, u. s.; Oliver's *Bio- p. 140.*
graphy; and Foley, vol. vii.

June 2, 1782, eighteen persons were confirmed, and Dom Blasius Morey was pastor.

1773. 'James Lane, S.J., at Britwell.' He can only have been here for a short time, as he is said to have resided fifty years at Norwich, where he died in 1821¹.

CHAPLAINS AT BRITWELL.

'James (Rev'd.) Weldon, or Welton, of Britwell, Oxon. Sole executor to will, William Strickland, of Edgeware Road. 1st May, 1792.'

'James Weldon, or Welton, S.J., born in Northumberland, 14th June, 1761: began his Noviceship (as I find by the Provincial's book) 13 June, 1739. I cannot follow him through subsequent life; but the list in the Directory fixes his death in London to 10th Dec., 1802, aged 86².'

CHAPLAINS TO THE NUNS.

1799. Father Pacificus Thomas Kington, O.S.F. He was born at Warwick, became chaplain to the Poor Clares at Aire, and was arrested at the beginning of the French Revolution. So near death was he, that he was reported to have been guillotined, being in fact only saved by the timely death of Robespierre. Upon his release in 1794, he was joined at St. Omer by his Community. In August, 1799, he came with them to England. Dr. Oliver tells us that Father Kington was appointed chaplain to the Franciscan nuns at Taunton Lodge in 1800, when he says, 'I had the comfort of meeting him in 1812.' Retiring from this post, he died at Osmundley (Osmotherley) in Yorkshire, Feb. 18, 1827, aged 73³.

1800. Father Anselm Milward, O.S.F., until, apparently, 1803, when he went to the nuns at Winchester.

1803. Father Pascal Harrison, O.S.F., succeeded Father Kington in this year, and remained until 1809, or thereabouts.

1811. Father Andrew Weetman, O.S.F., junior (Edward), replaced him for one year, after which he removed to Taunton, where he remained until the end of his life, which was in 1843. He was born at Rowington, Warwick.

¹ Foley, vol. v, and Oliver's *Biography*.

² Oliver's *Biography*.

³ Oliver's *Collections*, pp. 133 and 340.

1812. Father Joseph Tate, O.S.F., came to Britwell, and in this year the nuns left.

1770. Confirmation given to nine persons at Britwell. C. Blount, pastor.

1782. Confirmation given to eighteen persons at Britwell. Dom Blasius Morey, pastor.

1802. Confirmation given to three persons at Britwell.

1805. Confirmation given to twenty-two persons at Britwell.

1810. Confirmation given to five persons at Stonor and from Britwell.

Two families connected with the Brunings dwelt at Britwell, Ewelme, and Waterperry, viz. Glaspole and Padwick.

‘1794. Mr. Joseph Glaspole died at Britwell Oxon, 7th Dec.

1808. Mr. Henry Glaspole died at Havant.

Mary and Catherine Glaspole, returned for houses, etc. in Hampshire.’

At Waterperry, Richard Bruning mentions ‘his cousin Padwick’¹.

¹ *Catholic Register and Directory.*

PART VII. SECTION I

CROWMARSH, MUNGEWELL, NEWNHAM MURREN, THE STOKES, WHITCHURCH, WATLINGTON

FAMILIES OF HILDERSLEY, MOLYNS, SMITH OF WINCHESTER, AND HYDE.



CROWMARSH

A PRIEST is mentioned: 'Edmund Smith, born at Crowmarsh, or rather 'New Haven,' which lies between Crowmarsh and Newhaven¹.'

The Hildersleys settled at Crowmarsh Gifford before they got Little Stoke in Checkenden.

Monument in Crowmarsh Church to Will Hildersley, who died in 1576 :—

W. Hildersley = Anne Bradbury
of Benam |
Edward Hildersley = . . . Tyrell
of Crowmarsh |
William Hildersley = Margaret dau of John Stonor
of North Stoke
Walter Hildersley = Dorothy dau of Henry Burdett²

MUNGEWELL

The family of Molyms own a common ancestor with the Molyneux family. The old baronial line of De Moleynes of Henley, and of Bucks., founded a family at Sandhill, co. Hants. Later the family

¹ This name is probably a mistake for Newnham Murren.

² Sent to me by Rev. C. Abbey of Checkenden.

became Barons Ventry in Ireland. The Sandhill branch returned to this county. The *Visitations of Oxon.* give us this descent¹ :—

‘Richard Molyns of Sandhill, co. Southants.

William Molyns, eldest son, married as 3rd wife Anne, daughter of Sir Anthony Molyns; their son was Anthony Molyns, of Mackney, who married Agnes Cheyney of Wallingford.

They had Thomas, Mary Anne, and Elizabeth, all unmarried in 1597².

One of these co-heiresses married Sir John Simeon, of Britwell, and her father is styled in the Simeon pedigree, ‘of Chinnor.’ In the church of Chinnor are several monumental brasses to the Moleyns family. During the Commonwealth William Mollins of Mungewell was known as a Recusant.

‘Nov. 1, 1653. Claimant on the Estate of William Mollins (late), Recusant, Mungewell, co. Oxford. Thomas Saunders begs an order to the Commissioners to certify why they have seized Mungewell Manor, to which he has an undoubted right. Granted.

Jan. 17, 1654. The County Committee certify that two-thirds were sequestered from William Mollins of Mungewell for recusancy in 1646, discharged on his death 11th Jan. 1650, the heir being a Protestant, but re-sequestered on general orders till the discharge is produced³.

John Allen of Streatley had two daughters, one, Elizabeth, married Edward Reade of Ipsden; she died in 1654, the other daughter married . . . Saunders, Esq., of Mungewell⁴.

From the records of one of our English convents in France we learn some particulars of the wife and family of the above Recusant. He apparently left no son, as ‘the heir is a Protestant,’ and Thomas Saunders was perhaps the husband of Miss Reade above⁵.

Some of the ladies of this family were nuns in France. When the Lady Abbess Tredway, of the Order of St. Augustine, laid the foundation of a new house at Beaulieu, intended exclusively for Catholic ladies and girls, her first pupils were Bridget and Dorothy Mollyns, aged eighteen and seventeen respectively, the daughters of William Mollyns, Esq., of Oxfordshire, and of Bridget Tamworth, of Lincolnshire. In 1632 these started on their journey to France, and were on the point of sailing when they were arrested at Dover upon suspicion of religion, and were confined there in the Castle. After a time they were set at liberty, and ultimately by a long détour arrived at Beaulieu,

¹ Harleian Society, vol. v.

² The date of the visitation.

³ *Calendar for Compounding*, Part iv.

⁴ *Records of the Reades*, by Rev.

Compton Reade, p. 64.

⁵ *Un Couvent de Religieuses anglaises à Paris, 1634-1884*, par l'Abbé F. M. Th. Cédóz.

where they entered the convent as pensionnaires. The new Foundation was soon removed to the Rue d'Enfer, Paris, and there, on April 21, 1634, the two sisters took the habit and were later on 'professed.' Dorothy Mollyns was elected the second Superioress of the House in July, 1674, and her installation was presided over by Walter Montague, Abbot of Pontoise, assisted by Dr. Gage and M. Morange, secretary to the Archbishop of Paris. She died in 1689, and her sister Bridget in 1665. Anne Mollyns was also a nun in this convent, 'professed' in 1644, died 1697; possibly an aunt to the other two. Also in another convent we find the following:—

1724. 'Mr. Molins our Confessor gave presents to the Church.

Tabitha Molyns of Nuffield, Oxon, was professed in the above Convent in 1681, as sister Mary Agnes; born 1655, died 1694, aged 39.

Elizabeth Read of Oxon, professed 1684, died 1730, aged 73¹.'

NEWNHAM MURREN

Here upon the banks of the Thames, and in the heart of the old Stonor property, we come upon a family from Winchester, which has much interest for Catholics from its connexions, and on account of the Bishop, Dr. James Smith, who belonged to it.

We find in Wood's *Obituaries*² that:—

'John Smith, Com. of Oriel, died of smallpox at one Day's a taylor in St. Aldate's, 1 Nov. 1660, and was buried same day without escutcheons, at the upper end of St. Marie's chancel near to the grave of John Glendall. He was son and heir of Bartholomew Smith of Winchester, once High Sheriff of Hampshire³.'

In the list of Papists (1706) kept at Woodstock we read:—

'Newenham-Morren and Crowmarsh-Gifford; Bartholomew Smith, he lives in London.'

The next notice occurs in Cosin:—

1716. 'Frances Smith of the City of Winchester, co. Hants, widow, Freehold houses in Newnham Morren (Murren), subject to leases granted by her late husband to Anne Cresswell and others. Estate for life entailed upon her. £94 5s. od.'

¹ *History of New Hall Convent, formerly Lidge.*

² MSS., F iv.

³ He was High Sheriff in 1654. See

List and Indexes to Public Record Office: 'List of Sheriffs.' Published in 1898.

Of Cresswell we find:—

‘Thomas Cresswell, by his will dated Aug. 15, 1726, bequeathed after the death of his sister Mary Scudamore, which took place Nov. 23rd, 1770, a messuage with lands in the parish of Whitchurch and Goring, etc. . . . to Thomas Cresswell of Newnham in the co. of Oxford, yeoman, to provide a certain charity for the poor in Whitchurch and Goring¹.’

‘Bartholomew Smith, of the Soke near Winchester, Hants, 12 July 1651. B.S. begs discharge for his estate, two-thirds of which are sequestered for his supposed recusancy. . . .’

July 2. Being returned as a convicted Papist recusant his estate is to be sequestered.

June 30. B.S. being entitled to the farm of Sherfield English, co. Hants, for 70 years, complains that Michael Tichborne, lessee thereof from Wm. Smith, B.’s brother, who is dead and left a wife supposed to be a recusant, the co. Committee have sequestered it for her recusancy.

Feb. 1, 1653. Bartholomew Smith & his brother William compounded for their estates 3 years ago.

July 20. The Co. Comtee certified that Wm. Smith was not a Papist and that Bartholomew, though a recusant, enjoys his estate on security of three years’ value.

N.B. Bartholomew took the oath of Abjuration².

Of this family Dr. Milner writes as follows:—

‘One gentleman, promoted by James II in the ecclesiastical line, though his name does not occur in our ordinary histories, was a native of this city, where his family continued to possess an ancient house in St. Peter’s Street, together with a considerable estate in the adjoining country, until they transferred the same by marriage into the Sheldon family.

This was Dr. James Smith, president of the English College of Douay, and nominated by King James to be one of the first four Vicars Apostolic in England, with the title of Bishop of Callipolis and an allowance of £1000 a year. He conducted himself with great circumspection and prudence after the Revolution, nevertheless a nobleman who resided in the neighbourhood of Bishop Smith, in Yorkshire, understanding that he was possessed of a valuable crozier, and presuming that every kind of violence was lawful against a Catholic, stopped him upon the road, and finding the crozier in his baggage, carried it off in triumph, and deposited it in the treasury of York Minster, where it is shewn at the present day³.’

The Fabric Rolls of York Minster furnish us with additional particulars of Bishop Smith’s crozier:—

1689. ‘To Mr. Richard Hawson, agent for the Earl of Danby upon

¹ Slatter’s *History of Whitchurch*. p. 2495.

² *Calendar for Compounding*, Part iv, ³ *History of Winchester*, vol. i.

the delivery of the silver pastorall staffe, sometime belonging to the popish Bishop Smith, unto Mr. Dean for the use of the Cathedrall, £1 1s. 8d.'

'A silver pastoral staff of very elegant workmanship, and more than six feet long. It is still preserved in the vestry, and has been more than once engraved. It was taken in that year of commotion, 1688, from James Smith, titular Bishop of Callipolis, by the Earl of Danby. The Pope had made Smith his Vicar Apostolic for the northern district, and he was soon pounced upon¹.'

A news-letter to the Duchess of Rutland from London gives the following information :—

1688. 'July 31, London. Last week Bishop Smith went for Yorke, as did Bishop Gifford some time before for Oxford, and Bishop Ellis is going towards Wales to preside in their several districts and inspect those of the Romish persuasion. It is said they have each £500 a year pension².'

This family of Smith does not appear to have borne 'arms.' Upon the above-mentioned crozier are engraved the arms of a Yorkshire family of the name, but Antony à Wood remarks that the young man buried in Oxford had no escutcheons; see p. 288.

STOKE MULES (HUNDRED OF LANGTREE)

'18 April, 1654. Roger Gregory of Cuxham, Oxon, begs discharge of the Manor of Newnham Murren, Oxon, which Thomas Stonor of Stonor, being possessed thereof as administrator to his father Wm. Stonor during the remainder of a term of 60 years whereof 7 years are yet to run, by Indenture of 24 March 1654 for £500 paid, granted to petitioner; but the County Committee continue the sequestration for the recusancy of Wm. Stonor notwithstanding they know he is dead.'

'22nd March, 1654. John Crispe of London begs allowance of his title to the manor of Didcot, Berks., and of the advowson of the church there—also the Manor of Stoke-Mules, co. Oxon., and to several lands, etc., in Stoke-Mules, North Stoke and Ipsden, of which Thomas Stonor of Stonor was seized by assurance made by Sir Francis Stonor, his grandfather deceased, and which he by Indenture of 6th Jan. 1654 granted to petitioner for £1000; but the premises are sequestered for the recusancy of Wm. Stonor, father of the said Thomas, now dead³.'

¹ Fabric Rolls of York Minster. vol. ii, p. 120.
Surtees Society, 1858.

² 12th Report Hist. MSS., App. iv, p. 3070.

³ Calendar for Compounding, Part iv,

NORTH STOKE

A house belonging to the Stonors.

'Henry Stonor, of North Stoke, married Margery Lovelace, of Henley¹.'

1631. Anne Lady Curson, widow of Sir Francis Curson, of Watperry, Knt., and daughter of John Southcote, of Witham, Essex, seems to have lived here in her widowhood. In the Administration to her will, 1631-2, she is styled as of 'North Stoke, Oxon, widow.' She was probably sister to Martha Southcote, who married Sir Francis Stonor.

SOUTH STOKE

In 1706 we find a few names of Catholics here :—

'Two poor women only that are papists or so reputed.' 'John Albury & Mary his wife; Mary wife of John Collin; Barbara wife of Henry Bunsham; Jane Hance and Jane her daughter.'

GORING

This beautiful locality once belonged to the nuns of St. Augustine, who had a small Priory close by the river and bordering on the church grounds.

No Catholic place of worship ever seems to have been established here since the Reformation until the year 1895, when Mr. William Brown Hallitt, who owns a house upon the river, arranged to have Mass said in his boat-house on Saturdays, Sundays, and days of Obligation during the summer months. The priest from Mapledurham came over for some time; later on the priest from Caversham was appointed to serve both places. A piece of land was bought about the year 1896, being part of the old Priory land, and the first stone of a church was laid upon the 4th November, 1897, which was opened under the title of 'Our Lady and St. John.'

For the priests, see Caversham.

WHITCHURCH

The only Catholic landholder here that has come to our knowledge belonged to a family long settled upon the Berkshire side of the

¹ *Visitations Oxon.*, 1574.

Thames, though very closely connected with our county, the parish of Whitchurch extending itself across the river on purpose to include Mr. Hyde's estate.

'Francis Hyde, Esqr., living in Berkshire, hath an estate on Whitchurch of seven score pounds per an. and is a Roman Cath.¹'

1680. 'Certificate by the only four Ancients of Staple Inn in town, that there is no Papist nor reputed Papist that are members of the Inn except Mr. Stonor Growth of Wallingford and Mr. Francis Hyde of Hygend, who have absented themselves in obedience to the proclamation for banishing Papists².'

This appears to be the same as the person who is returned in 1706 as a Roman Catholic. He sold Hyde Hall and went to live at Hyde End. Only one other person, a labourer, is returned as living here at the same time.

In Canon Slatter's *Account of Whitchurch* we read the following :—

'We find that as early as the days of King John a hide of land in Sulham (Berkshire) was given to Whitchurch, with some manorial rights in a chantry chapel; this may have given the name of "Hyde Hall" to the house built upon Sulham and at present represented by Purley Hall, a short distance from it. In the parish books occurs the constant entry of "ferridge or wherridge" to Mr. Hyde's, implying the overseers crossing the river to collect the rates, etc.'

The Hydes spread themselves all over Berkshire and also held land in the parishes of Culham and Standlake. Lord Clarendon's branch conformed to the Established Church, the remainder continued Catholic down to the beginning of the present century.

WATLINGTON

This place is mainly connected with the Stonors. A few names of other families are found here.

'Philip Horne	Firma	13s. 4d.
John Forde	Firma	13s. 4d. ³

1706. *July*. 'Christopher Hall and Peter Higgs, tailor; Will. Cheney, cord-wainer, papists and no estates.

Thomas Stonor, Esq., lives at Watlington Park⁴.'

¹ *Stonyhurst MS.*, 1706.

³ *Quietus Roll*, Charles I.

² *11th Report Hist. MSS.*, App. ii,
p. 103.

⁴ List kept at Woodstock.

PART VII. SECTION II

STONOR, HENLEY-ON-THAMES, LITTLE STOKE WITH CHECKENDEN

FAMILIES OF STONOR, HILDERSLEY, LADY MANNOCK

STONOR

THE chapel of the Holy Trinity at Stonor, consecrated to the service of God in 1349, has never seen any other worship than that of the Church of Rome.

At the time of the Reformation we find the family of Stonor continually true to their faith, and in a greater measure than any other family in the county bearing public testimony to the same.

Sir Francis Stonor married Cecily, daughter of Leonard Chamberlain, of Shirburn Castle, and of Dorothy Newdigate, consequently Lady Stonor was first cousin to Jane Dormer, Duchess of Feria. In the *Life of the Duchess of Feria*¹ we are told how Lady Stonor was brought up before the Judges in Oxford for her 'recusancy' (23rd or 24th Eliz.) and how she answered them. She says:—

'I was born in such a time when Holy Mass was in great reverence, and brought up in the same faith. In King Edward's time this reverence was neglected and reproved by such as governed. In Queen Mary's it was restored with much applause, and now in this time it pleaseth the State to question them, as now they do me, who continue in this Catholic profession. The state would have their several changes, which I have seen with mine eyes, good and laudable. Whether it can be so I refer to your Lordships' consideration. I hold me still to that wherein I was born and bred; and find nothing taught in it but great virtue & sanctity, and so by the grace of God I will live and die in it.'

This answer seemed to amaze the Judges, spoken with great confidence, so they dismissed her upon ordinary sureties.

¹ *Quarterly Series*, No. 62, p. 38.

Stonor House up to this date had never been searched, but public attention was called to it and the search was made, with the result of discovering Father Parsons's secret Press, which was set up in a little house close by in the wood.

The Press had been first of all established at East Ham in a house known as 'Green-street,' probably the same now called 'Boleyn's Castle,' but suspicions being aroused the staff had to separate, and they removed to this neighbourhood. Father Parsons gives his own account of the matter in his autobiographical notes written about the year 1598:—

'Having received Father Campion's book "de rationibus" compounded by him in Lancashire I sent for him to come up and print it himself; and in the mean space I procured another place for a press, to witt a house of my Lady Stonor standing in a wood fast by Henley, where Mr. Brinkley also was prefect of the printers and Mr. William Maurice, priest, was procurator to buy paper and other necessities: and Father Campion coming up went to lye there and so printed his book. And after his book was printed the most part of the copies sent to Oxford against the "Act," which was in the beginning of July. Father Campion and I departed from that house about the 10th of August being Munday and upon Sunday after he was taken at Lyford by treason of Eliot, as in his life is sett downe¹.

The 'Act' was what is now called the 'Encaenia' or 'Commemoration'; the books, to the number of over four hundred, were distributed in St. Mary's Church, where the 'Act' was then held. Only two of these copies are known to exist, one at Stonyhurst, the other belonging to the Marquis of Bute. Father Parsons, writing about eighteen years after the time, has mistaken the day, 10th August, as Father Campion was arrested a fortnight earlier, 16th July, 1581. The natural confusion arising between the two places, Henley-on-Thames and Henley Park, must be noticed here. Father Parsons goes on to say, 'I lying in Henley Park at Mr. Francis Browne's house, &c.' This house was near Guildford in the parish of Warpleston, and the fact is abundantly proved by a long account of the raiding of that house and the taking of prisoners reported in the *7th Report on Hist. MSS.* (pp. 105 seq.).

The name of another priest who frequented this house is left to us:—

'Anthony Sherlock, priest, was examined. He went into France in 1586, was ordained priest and returned into England the same year, and

¹ This account is taken from *Bibliographia*, part vi, 'English Provincial Presses,' by W. H. Allnutt, late of the Bodleian Library.

lived in Lady Stonor's house near Henley for three or four years, after which he went to Brailes, etc.¹

Another lady of this house was a severe sufferer for her faith about fifty years later. With several other ladies of the county she was confined in Banbury Castle upon the occasion of James I visiting Hanwell Castle, the seat of the Copes. About ten years later Charles I put a period to her troubles by protecting her from further molestation.

'10th to 14th, Charles Rex. Whereas the Lady Elizabeth Stonor of Blount's Court, widow, stands indited for recusancy in the Court of Oxon, she being a weake and sickly woman, as we are informed, Our Royall pleasure is that you henceforth forebeare to proceed and suffer not any further proceeding against her, nor upon her lands and goods, upon the said Inditement to Conviction, or upon any other the foresaid Inditement in the said county of Oxon or Wilts until you know further our pleasure².'

This lady was probably Elizabeth Woodhouse, of Kimberley, co. Norfolk, who became the wife of Sir Henry Stonor, who died without issue.

The will of John Stonor, son of Sir Francis, signed 28th July, 1626, mentions 'his cousin Monseigneur Chamberlayne, Dean of Ghent, and Jane Chamberlayne. Mdlle Chamberlayne was a nun at St. Elizabeth's at Brussels³.' Copy dated at Brussels, Aug. 1653. His wife was Catherine de Lyere; he lived at Louvaine. A Mr. John Stonor had been taken in the raid upon the printing-house at Stonor, and sent with the printers to London; can this be him?

We will now examine how it fared with the Stonors under the succeeding Government.

'County Commissioners for Oxford sitting at Deddington, Feb. 8th, 1650-1. William Stonor's estate in the absence of particulars, we grant it may be worth £1600 a year, but a great part lies in wood which being let to a stranger might suffer much spoil; more than one sixth goes out in taxes besides quit rents, and should we refuse the present tenant we could hardly find another to take it at our rate, viz. £700 for two-thirds⁴.'

'Claimants on the Estates of William Stonor (late) Recusant, Stonor, Oxon, and Francis and Thomas his sons.

1652. 24th Dec. Sir John Curson, Henry Cookson & Edward Ireland for the creditors of Francis Stonor petitioner, Francis Stonor owing them much money, he and his brother Thomas in 1652 granted to Sir George

¹ Foley, vol. iv, p. 74.

² William Prynn's *Popish Royall Favourite*, p. 6.

³ 10th Report Hist. MSS., App. iv.

p. 195.

⁴ *Calendar for Compounding*, Part i, p. 407.

Simeon, Thos Bayles and Henry Alnut a lease for 8 years of Stonor Manor, etc. The premises were sequestered for recusancy of William Stonor.

1654. *7th March*. Thomas Allen of Ewelme, Oxon., petitions against the sequestration of Penton Mewsey, Hants, having purchased the same of Thos. Stonor his son.

1654. *April*. John Dew of Didcot; Stonor demised Watlington Park to Dew at a peppercorn rent for 21 years.¹

1654. *April*. Roger Gregory of Cuxham; Newnham-Murren Manor & Stonor to Gregory¹.

1706. 'Greenfield. Tho. Stonor, Esq.; the Honble Winefride Stonor his wife, Mrs. Anne Stonor, a papist; and 10 servants papists².'

'Thomas Stonor, Esq., Entailed Estate at Watlington, Pirton, etc., subject to a lease granted by Sir Francis Stonor, Knt., in 1652, and another by Thomas Stonor in 1681, £1405 8s. 1d.³'

John Talbot Stonor, Vicar Apostolic of the Midland District and Bishop of Thespieae, was second son of John Stonor, Esq., and of Lady Mary Talbot. He was consecrated privately at Paris in 1716; he appears to have lived principally in Oxfordshire, first at Watlington Park, and afterwards at 'Old Heythrop,' but died at Stonor, where he is buried, on March 29, 1756, aged 76 years⁴. His letters were dated from 'Castello Stonorio in Com. Oxoniensis,' a title which might apply indifferently to either Stonor or Watlington.

1746. 'A Romish priest was taken up at Stokenchurch in Oxfordshire for endeavouring to enlist several countrymen in the Pretender's service⁵.'

The young Pretender was then in Scotland. Charles Edward assumed the *alias* of 'Mr. Stonor,' and with his son travelled upon the Continent under that name in 1771⁶.

THE MISSION FROM THE YEAR 1758.

In the year 1840, according to a proposal made by the Government and acceded to by the Vicars Apostolic, 78 old Catholic Mission Registers were forwarded to Somerset House for safe keeping, but in 1857 it was decided that no more should be sent⁷. Of these the Stonor Register is the only one from Oxfordshire; it is marked No. 19 at Somerset House.

¹ *Calendar for Compounding*, Part iv, Brady.
p. 3070.

² List of Papists, 1706.

³ Cosin's *List*, 1715.

⁴ See *Life of Milner* and Mazière

⁵ *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1746, p. 44.

⁶ *10th Report Hist. MSS.*, App. vi,
p. 224.

⁷ *Notes and Queries*.

The annexed copy is made from Mr. J. O. Payne's *Old Catholic Missions*¹. It is contained in three very neatly kept books, in the first of which is the following explanatory note :—

“The Chapel of Stonor at Stonor, founded before the reign of King Henry VI, & which still subsists”; the said books commencing with an entry dated on the 13th of Jan. 1758, and ending with an entry dated 27th Oct. 1840, being forwarded by the Rev. C. P. A. Comberbach, now chaplain, through J. Fleming, Esq., barrister-at-law, who has kept them since 7th Nov. as the friend of Lord Camoys, the proprietor of the Chapel at Stonor, and of the said Rev. C. P. A. Comberbach, for the purpose of placing them in the custody of the Commissioners. Signed 9th Nov. 1840.

James Fleming for the Rev. C. P. A. Comberbach.’

Book I dates from 1758 to 1790; no priests’ names of that period occurring in it, a notice of the death at Stonor, 23rd August, 1790, of the Rev. Joseph Strickland, being evidently an addition of more recent date. It contains, however, apparently a list of school attendance.

In Book II the name of George Gildart occurs as priest in 1791, and that of J. B. Mortuaire in 1796, the register of the death of the latter occurring afterwards in Book III as follows:—

1830. ‘*Sep.* Reverendus Dominus Johannes Baptista Mortuaire, Ecclesiae Romanae Sacerdos et triginta ultra annos Pastor Capellae St. . . . ad Stonor, omnibus ecclesiae praesidiis tempestive praemunitus, ex diuturno morbo obiit, aetat. ferme ann. R.I.P.’

Later on occurs the following entry :—

1837. ‘*1 Mar.* Anne Comberbach at Antwerp in the . . . year of her age. Deus qui nos patrem et matrem honorare precepisti, misere clementer animae matris mee, etc.

C. P. A. COMBERBACH.’

1756. ‘Bishop J. Talbot Stonor died at Stonor in Oxfordshire, 29th March, aged 76.’

1759. ‘M. Matthias Molyneux died at Mr. Stonor’s in Oxfordshire 1st Feb. 2’

PRIESTS AT STONOR³.

The Rev. Dr. Joseph Strickland died at Stonor, 23rd August, 1790. Buried in the chapel.

1791. Rev. George Gildart. Oliver tells us of him :—

‘The first resident priest at Gloucester, which place he left in 1789, was

¹ The present writer examined these registers at Somerset House in 1898.

³ From the Catholic Register, 1770 to 1790.

² From ‘Chapter Records.’

the Rev. George Thomas Gildart. He was educated at Valladolid; on returning a priest to England he was employed for a time in London, thence at Stonor, co. Oxford, and thence at Gloucester. . . . In course of years he died at Swansea, and his gravestone may be seen in St. Mary's churchyard. He died Feb. 17th, 1827, aged 63¹.

His last signature at Stonor is dated May 13, 1795. He was succeeded by the Rev. J. B. Mortuaire, whose name first appears Feb. 10, 1796, and who served the Mission until October, 1830, the time of his death. The last entry by him is in February, 1829.

The following names are given from the *Catholic Directory*:—

1838. Rev. Charles Comberbach.

1850. Rev. Henry Birks.

1865. Rev. James Nary.

(These two exchanged for Oxford.)

1869. Rev. Alexander Comberbach.

1878. Rev. John Ullathorne.

1880. Rev. W. M. Stone.

1884. Rev. Robert Keates.

1886. Rev. Austin J. Beech.

1891. Rev. Will. Dobell.

From the Bishop's Confirmation Book we find that:—

Confirmation was given at Stonor on June 4, 1770, to thirty-two persons. Joseph Strickland, Pastor.

Confirmation was given at Stonor on June 11, 1786, to fifty-two people. Joseph Strickland, Pastor.

Confirmation was given at Stonor on Aug. 11, 1805, to twenty-two people.

Confirmation was given at Stonor on Aug. 12, 1810, to twenty people.

The following extracts are from the *Diaries of Mrs. P. Lybbe-Powys*:—

'August 7, 1800. In Lichfield Cathedral is a Carlo Dolci, the same as that we had just seen by the same hand put up at Mr. Stonor's chapel at Stonor in our neighbourhood, a present from Mrs. Stonor's father.'

'July 14, 1801. We went to see Mrs. Stonor of Stonor, who was so obliging as to show us their new (*sic*, really renovated) Chapel, a most elegant one, and a very fine painting on glass done by Eggington, a present from Mr. Blundell, her father. The altar fine marble, brought from France since the Revolution.'

¹ *Collections*, p. 117.

HENLEY-ON-THAMES

We have no records of any Catholic affairs here apart from Stonor, but there appears to have been a Catholic family living at Badgemore, close by, sometime in the eighteenth century. Amongst a number of addresses of Catholic clergy preserved in an old register book at St. Mary's, Leeds, Yorkshire, occurs: 'To Mr. Brownlow-Doughty, at Badgemore, Henley-on-Thames¹.'

Sir Thomas Mannock, of Gifford's Hall, co. Suffolk, married, first, Mary, daughter of George Brownlow-Doughty, Esq., and secondly, Anastasia, daughter of Mark Browne, Esq., of Eastbourne, Sussex. He and his brother both dying without issue the Baronetcy became extinct in 1787².

About the year 1812 we find the widow, Lady Mannock, taking a house at Henley, and employing a French refugee priest to say Mass every week for her. She only remained here about two years and died at Windsor, 18th April, 1814, aged 65³.

Unfortunately, after her death the rev. gentleman who had attended her chapel was unable to recover his due salary and travelling expenses from the executors, and we are left in the dark as to whether he succeeded in his suit or not. Lady Mannock had sold her furniture and tried to let the house. The three following notes are from an agent in Reading, named Hawkes:—

'Hammersmith, Aug. 21, 1813. In answer to your enquiry I beg to inform you that I shall have no objection to accept of a good and responsible tenant such as I may approve when Lady Mannock meets with one. I shall not however consent to the house being parted with to any person carrying on a school or any occupation equally objectionable.

GEORGE PRING.'

'Reading, 26 Nov. 1813. Mr. Hawkes informs Lady Mannock that the agreement returned will be called for by Dr. Routh . . .'

explaining that it should be signed, &c.

'Mr. Hawkes informs Lady Mannock that after some correspondence with Dr. Routh he thinks Dr. Routh will consent to give £45 per an. for the house and fixtures. He expects to begin as tenant on the 12th Nov.'

¹ See Payne's *Catholic Missions*.

² *Burke's Extinct Baronetage*.

³ *Catholic Directory*.

We append the following letters from M. d'Allard to Lady Mannock's Executors about his salary and travelling expenses:—

Extract from a French letter addressed to Mr. James Barrett, Henley, Oxon.; from M. d'Allard.

'Fingest, 2 June, 1814.

SIR,—I have had the pleasure lately of seeing my friend Mr. Mortuaire, and of hearing from him that the late Lady Mannock has left me a legacy of £19 19s. *od.*, & also that she had bequeathed to my friends, Messrs. Mortuaire & Becquett, 50s. each, etc. . . . When Lady Mannock came to Henley her family begged me to look out a house for her; as I live seven miles away from Henley I was obliged to incur some expenses for going there, etc. Lady M. had the goodness to acknowledge my trouble by presenting me with an old tortoise-shell snuff-box which had belonged to her aunt Lady Webb. As she had no Chaplain she begged me to give her mass until she might procure one. I promised to do all in my power to oblige her, but as my health is only feeble I could not depend upon myself.

She did her utmost to procure a Chaplain, but unfortunately Dr. Milner, for his own reasons, refused to accept the offers of two who are most trustworthy, one of whom is M. l'Abbé de A. Sever et l'autre M. Becquett my friend, and this obliged me to continue my services towards her until she left Henley, a period of two years and two months, for which period I have never received one liard, neither for my services nor for expenses. These expenses were unavoidable and amounted to more than she has had the goodness to leave me. Besides this Lady M. and her niece Madame Desfages often asked me to procure little commissions, which I very willingly complied with, for instance a fowl, etc., for which I have never been repaid. As my health would not permit me to go on Sunday mornings fasting I went overnight and slept at Henley, where although for the most part I put up at my friends, Mr. Haskey, etc., I was obliged to fee the servants according to custom, and you must know, Sir, that this item alone repeated during two years is much beyond the means of a French priest, who for the twenty-three years he has been in England has only had £30 income from the Government for his whole fortune. I must mention that Lady M. and her niece Mme: Desfages frequently asked me my terms, but trusting to their generosity and sense of justice, I answered as only a man of my birth and profession could reply to such a question, knowing that their intention was to offer £70 per an. to their Chaplain. . . . This may be sufficient, Sir, to convince you that the sum of £19 19s. *od.* does not acquit her Ladyship of her debt towards me, etc. (begging Mr. Barrett to represent his case to the Executors),

D'ALLARD.

M. d'Allard confined himself to the bare expenditure which he had incurred, and he awaits the reply to be able to return to France.'

In a letter from M. d'Allard to Mr. Selby the Banker, dated 11 Aug., 1814, he claims sixty guineas per annum as Chaplain, and also the disbursements he has made, offering to deduct the £19 19s. 0d. left in the will. Next day he received the answer to above, regretting that the Executors cannot comply with his demands—Mme. Desfages had just left for France and M. du Moulin was unwilling. Another letter, dated Henley, Jan. 8, 1815, from M. d'Allard to Messrs. Wright & Selby, accepts the sum they offer (amount unnamed), but leaves the rest to the conscience of the parties concerned, and offers to give a receipt for amount received.

Copy of a letter addressed to Messrs. Wright & Selby, Bankers, Henrietta Street, London:—

'SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your kind letter of the 12th August. I have seen Mr. Barrett, to whom you have referred me, who has also satisfactorily explained to me that my account, without being formally stated, would not in your capacity of Executor be attended to. I have therefore endeavoured to put it into proper shape, and take the liberty to enclose it, as it now no longer rests on any point of discretion on your part; any appeal to M. Dumoulin or to Mme. Desfages are, I submit, unnecessary, as the justice or injustice of the demand is left to your consideration as Executor. You will perceive that in forming my charge, I have paid attention to your wishes and charged each time the sum proposed—the horse-hire and expenses form, of course, a separate item. The demands of amount is composed of various small disbursements, which are all that I can recollect, but which are, if recollection would serve me, more considerable. I cannot conclude this without expressing to you my sentiments of gratitude towards you, and to beg of you to accept them. I am, Sir, with respect,

your obedient Servt.,
D'ALLARD.

Fingest House, Sept. 12, 1814.
Stokenchurch, Oxon.'

'The late Lady Mannock deceased.

To the Rev. François Philippe d'Allard.

1811, *Sept. 12th*. Journeys from Fingest to Henley near 7 miles distant and attending Lady Mannock at her request, from Saturday night till Sunday afternoon, on each of those until the 30th Novb. 1813. Being 112 times at 7s. each time. £39 4s. 0d.

The like journeys and attendance on the days of obligation or devotion, etc., about 32 days in number, in the same years, on the evenings preceding those days and returning the following days. For those M. d'Allard makes

no claim, considering illness and other circumstances accidental may have some time prevented his attendance on the Saturday as appointed.

Horse-hire and expenses, in going to and returning from Henley to Fingest each of the above attendances, being 112 in number; for horse-hire at 7s. a time, £34 4s. 0d. Expenses at 4s. 6d. a time, £25 0s. 0d.

Money expended by M. d'Allard on Lady Mannock's account and by her request.

For a goose, 8s. 6d.; 4 chickens, 8s. 0d.

Messengers for letters, 17s. 6d.

Wine, 10s. 0d. Carriage for game, etc., 14s. 6d. £2 18s. 6d.

D'ALLARD.'

Copy of a letter marked 'private,' from Mr. Thomas Canning to Nicholas Selby, Esq., Henrietta Street:—

'Staple Inn, 15th Oct. 1814.

DEAR SIR,—The French Gentleman who said prayers for Lady Mannock has been, since the Peace, an *Alien Friend*; and before the Peace he was an *Alien Enemy residing in this country under the Protection of Government*. In "Wells & Williams," 1 Ld. Rayn. 282, it is said that, "though the Plaintiff ('an Alien') came here since the War, yet if he has continued here by the King's leave and protection ever since without molesting the Government or being molested by it, he may be allowed to sue, for that is consequent to his being in protection" and the Court in that case decided that "an alien Enemy," who is here in protection, may sue his bond or contract.

The Statute of 31 Geo. III, c. 32, authorizes Priests, who have taken the oath thereby prescribed, to say Mass. French Priests not taking this oath are not affected by this act. How far the protection of Government authorizes them to say Mass may be a question. If it is lawful for a French Priest to say Mass he may certainly enter into an agreement to travel a certain number of miles every Sunday for the purpose of saying mass and officiating as Chaplain to a private family.

Admitting that a French Priest under the protection of Government may lawfully say mass, without taking the oath, I think that the Gentleman in question may bring an Action on the case against the Executors, upon an implied contract between him and Lady Mannock, that the expenses at least of his journeys to Henley should be repaid him, and perhaps also some remuneration for his time and trouble, as an usual thing in such cases, notwithstanding there was not any express agreement on the subject.

I remain Dr. Sir, your most obedt. Servant

THOMAS CANNING, JUNR.¹

¹ Unfortunately the sequel to this business and correspondence has not come to our hand.

During the present century Mass was first said at Henley on 1st November, 1864, by the Rev. Andrew Walshe, Chaplain of Mr. Scott-Murray, who drove over from Danesfield on Sundays until June 7, 1867, when it was taken up by the Rev. James Nary, from Stonor, who could only continue the service until the 2nd of December the same year, on which day Mass was said for the last time.

On October 7, 1888, the Mission was once more opened by the Rev. J. N. Bacchus.

LITTLE STOKE, OR STOKE MARMYON

This manor forms the lower portion of the parish of Checkenden, where it borders the Thames, and is sandwiched in between the parishes of North and South Stoke.

It had come down from the Marmions to a family named Pollington in James I's time; from them, probably through the Winters¹ and Stonors, to the Hildersleys. The inscription upon a monument in the church at Crowmarsh, is already given at page 286.

Hence we may go on to William Hildersley, who married Margaret Stonor of North Stoke.

'Excuse of William Hildersley's that the books brought over by him were delivered to him by one Farmer an Englishman at Amiens, to be delivered to Mr. Reynolds.'

'Exeter, 21 July, 1586. . . . Letter to Walsyngham, . . . sent advertisement; Priests & Jesuits at Henley Park (near Guildford), offers his services to go over to France with Francis Hildersley to make enquiries relative to Papists².'

Mr. William Hildersley here mentioned was of the same family with Bishop Hilsley who succeeded Cardinal Fisher in the See of Rochester. He was in a large way of business as sheep-master upon the Berkshire Downs and died in 1596. The family spread over Berkshire and Oxfordshire, and after disposing of East Ilsley to the Mores of Fawley, settled at Little Stoke.

Francis, the son of William and Margaret, compounded for his estate:—

'Claimant on estate of Will. Hildersley, Recusant, Ilsley, co. Berks., and Francis his son.

¹ See Harleian Society, vol. v.

² *Calendar State Papers Domestic*, 1581-90, p. 340.

Aug. 28, 1650. John Thatcher, Wm. Young and 2 others beg to compound on the Act of 1st Aug. for Ilsley Farm, Berks., mortgaged to them by Hildersley for £500 in Car. 10.

Noted, Fowle to search whether Hildersley was not a convicted recusant before the deed.'

'July 1, 1651. Wm. Young of Whatcombe, co. Berks., petitions that Hildersley assigned his mortgage to him, and interest has been paid to him till now, when the estate is sequestered for the recusancy of Francis son of W. Hildersley, who is dead. Begg to enjoy the premises till paid his debt, or to have his claim examined¹.'

Father Francis Hildersley, S.J., son of another Francis and Mary Winchcombe, studied with the Jesuits at Liège at the breaking out of Oates's Plot; he was examined as a witness for the five martyred Jesuits to disprove the evidence of Oates. In 1696 he was Superior of the Residence of St. Mary (Oxfordshire), and died probably in the same district, June 17, 1719, aged 64.

The few notes following will be interesting as showing a little more of the family history.

In Lyson's *Berkshire* is mentioned a single monument in East Ilsley Church, dated 1606, and in the *History of Pembroke College* the account is supplemented: 'a brass to Margaret Stonor, wife of William Hildersley, placed there by their youngest daughter, a nun.' In the *History of New Hall Community*², formerly at Liège, we have the account of several nuns of a later generation, daughters of William Hildersley of Little Stoke, and Anne Hawkins his wife:—

'Mary, born 1624, professed as Mary Catherine, died 1693, aged 69.

Anne, born 1626, professed as Anne Margaret, died 1691, aged 65.

Catherine, born . . . , professed as Mary Theresa, died 1698, aged 73.

Susanna, born 1631, professed as Magdalen, died 1670, aged 39.

A niece of theirs, Frances Hildersley was professed as Magdalen, died 1693, aged 31.

In 1675 Mr. Hildersley and Mr. Dolman (who also had a relative in the Convent) gave them an alms and a stained glass window for their Chapel.'

The family seems to have died out about this time; the widow of a Mr. Ilsley is mentioned as the wife of Mr. Grimsditch of Checkenden, with three daughters; and Mary, one of the co-heiresses of Mr. William Hildersley, married Robert Eyston, Esq., third son of George Eyston, of East Hendred. At the reopening of St. Armand's

¹ *Calendar for Compounding*, p. 2521.

² Published 1899.

Chapel at East Hendred, Sept. 25, 1687, Mr. Hildersley of Little Stoke and his brother Martin were present, with many others named, amongst whom were Sir Henry More of Fawley and his family, Mr. John Massey, Dean of Christ Church, with other Catholic gentlemen.

The *Stonyhurst MS.*, 1706, gives us this account for Checkenden :—

‘Mr. John Grimsditch, gent., and his wife Mary, and three daughters of the aforesaid Mrs. Grimsditch which she had by a former husband, Mr. Ilsley.

The names of the daughters we know not¹, the youngest of them is about 19 or 20 years of age. The estate of Mrs. Grimsditch & her daughters is supposed to be about £300 per annum.’

‘Robert Elston gent.; £180 per an. lives at Hendred, Berks., also entered at Ipsden £4 per an.’²

Jane Hyde, of Hyde End, Berks., married . . . Grimsditch. She was living in 1682–6³.

Baugh of Milcombe, Oxon. Rowland Baugh married Mary Crokes of Hook Norton; their daughter Margaret married Thomas Grimsditch of Cheshire⁴.

One of these two couples may have been the parents of Mr. John Grimsditch, of Checkenden, who is probably the ‘Captain John Grimsditch who died 15th March, 1715’⁵. Another Mrs. Grimsditch was at Caversham. It is difficult to say whether these people were from Cheshire or whether the name may be local, as the ancient dike or boundary crossing the county from Bensington to Henley goes by that name.

There is no record whatever of the name of Grimsditch at Checkenden, where, however, the Hildersleys are frequently mentioned in the parish books. These latter held a few fields in Ipsden as early as 1536, and also in Checkenden. Their property passed to Lydall, of Uxmoor, Ipsden. A licence is kept among the Church papers, given by the Archbishop of Canterbury, in 2nd and 3rd year of Edward VI, to Francis Hildersley of Little Stoke, granting him leave to eat meat in Lent on account of his health. The same licence extended to his wife and such of his friends as he might invite to his table. It appears to have been renewed in 1662 to the same family :—

¹ One daughter was probably Mrs. Eyston.

² Woodstock List.

³ Burke, *Commoners*, vol. iv, p. 675.

⁴ Harleian Society. For history of

this family in Cheshire see Ormerod's *History of Cheshire*, vol. i, p. 659, and Earwaker's *East Cheshire*, vol. ii.

⁵ Catholic Register of Waterperry.

'The licence to eat meat given to Francis Hildersley was handed down by the family to the Blackalls of "Brazieres" (relatives to Blackall of Hazeley), and by them to the Reades of Ipsden¹.'

'In 1773 Frances Lydall of Uxmore, married Thomas Reade, and his father settled upon the young couple the estate of Stoke-Marmyon or Little Stoke, inherited from the Blackalls, who inherited it from the Hildersleys the successors of the Marmyons².'

The Benedictines served this place for some years.

'April 4th, 1663. Last year at Little Stoke in Oxfordshire died Dom. George Bacon, aet. 66; he was brother to Judge Bacon and to an Ignatian of that name, a learned and prudent man and an excellent preacher³.'

He had been a secular priest professed upon the Mission.

'Dom. Lawrence Lowick died at Little Stoke Oct. 13, 1633. He was born at Osmutherley, Yorkshire, and professed at St. Laurences Dieulievard, 1620⁴.'

CHECKENDEN

There exists a tradition that the Doughty family lived at Checkenden and had a chapel in the house. The following was communicated to the writer by the Rector, the Rev. C. J. Abbey, who also kindly supplied notes upon Little Stoke.

'Checkenden Rectory, Nov. 30, 1897. Do you know anything of the Doughtys, a Roman Catholic family who lived, I am told, at Checkenden Court in the first half of the 18th century? It was believed by my informant, now dead, that they also held Braziers Park, in this parish, and Woodcote House in Woodcote parish. . . . A small ruinous old Roman Catholic Chapel, used at last as a hen-house, is said to have fallen down in the early part of this century.'

This little old chapel was attached to the Court, and the last remains were cleared away by the present owner, Robert Duff, Esq.

For Brownlow-Doughty, see Henley, p. 299. Sir Philip Doughty in 1674 purchased land in Chesham, Bucks., which still belonged to the family in 1831.

¹ *Records of the Redes*, by the Rev. Compton Reade, 1899, p. 63, note.

³ *Benedictine Necrology*.

⁴ *Necrology*, u. s.

² u. s., p. 70.

PART VII. SECTION III

ROTHERFIELD GREYS, SHIPLAKE, CAVERSHAM, MAPLEDURHAM

FAMILIES OF KNOLLYS, PLOWDEN, GRIMSDITCH, BRIGHAM, BLOUNT

ROTHERFIELD GREYS

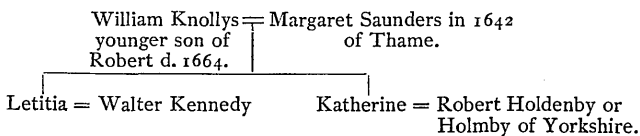
THE ancient fortified mansion of Greys was the seat of the Knollys family during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Sir Francis Knollys, Chamberlain and Treasurer to Queen Elizabeth, was father to William, a favourite with James I, and by him, and by the next King, William Knollys was advanced from one dignity to another, until in 1626 he was made Earl of Banbury. The new title brought no luck with it, and only became the subject of prolonged litigation before the House of Lords. He died at the age of 88, and was buried in the church of Greys. Lady Elizabeth Howard, his second wife, was daughter to Thomas, Earl of Suffolk, and sister to Thomas, first Earl of Berkshire. This lady, who became notorious for her intrigues (see Ewelme), was no doubt a Catholic, and her name was frequently before Parliament as a 'suspect papist.'

Lady Elizabeth, widow of the Earl of Banbury, took for her second husband Edward Vaux, fourth baron of that name. This alliance brought ruin upon the Vaux family. There were two sons born to Lady Elizabeth during the lifetime of her first husband, named Edward and Nicholas, presumed to have been sons of Lord Vaux, and to Edward, the elder, Lord Vaux left his estates. Through Nicholas and his descendants arose the famous contest about the Earldom of Banbury, which proved fruitless; and Charles, the son of Nicholas, succeeding to Harrowden, sold that ancient family estate in 1694.

Lady Elizabeth and Lord Vaux were both buried at Dorking, she in 1658 and he in 1661¹.

In the *State Papers Domestic*, 1666-7, p. 174, is a notice of Lady Vaux of 'Harodin,' and of papists coming and going from Harrowden. She was aunt to the then Lord Banbury, and a relation of Lord Peterborough's.

To return to Rotherfield. The Earl of Banbury's next brother, Sir Robert Knollys, had several granddaughters, who appear to have been living at Greys, and were Catholics. The descent is given in Dr. Lee's *Thame Church*, p. 595 :—



The Register of Rotherfield Greys supplies the following :—

1689. 'Jan. 13. Catherina fil: Rob: et Cath: Holdenby sub cap: sep: killed by a stack of chimneys which crossed one room in falling & killed them (*sic*) in another room.'

1707. 'Oct. 10. Cath: Holdenby, vidua; sep: sub cap: bor:'

1708. 'Jan. 12. Laetitia Kennedy, sep:'

'Within the vault on the south side lyes one coffin with these letters :

✠ C. (atherine) H (oldenby) 52 A. 1707.'

'At the east end are two coffins, one on the other; on the uppermost F. K. 69.'

'On the north K(atherine) H(oldenby) 1689. R(ober) K(nollys). In the middle : ✠ L(etitia) K(ennedy) 1708, aged 55².'

In the *Stonyhurst MS.*, 1706, we find: 'Three papist recusants, Mrs. Laetitia Kennedy, Mrs. Catherine Haldonby, Mary, wife of Wm. Ward, yeoman.' Also 'Mr. Francis Holdenby, gent.' He was a secular priest serving on the Oxfordshire Mission in 1702, probably son of Katherine and Robert.

SHIPLAKE

The Catholic interest in Shiplake centres entirely around the family of Plowden of Plowden, co. Salop.

The earliest date when the name appears at Shiplake is 1569.

¹ Napier's *Swyncombe and Ewelme*.

² *Rawlinson MSS.* (Bodl.), B 400 b, fol. 116.

Mr. Edmund Plowden, Sergeant-at-Law, was celebrated during the reigns of Edward, Mary, and Elizabeth for his legal learning, uprightness, and acumen shown in all the cases submitted to his charge. Having obtained the wardship of young Mr. Englefield, he doubtless often came to this part of the country, near to the Englefield estates, and finding land for sale at Shiplake, part of the property of Missenden Abbey, he settled there and built a large house, afterwards called 'Grovelands,' upon the slope running down to the river Thames. When young Englefield became of age we are told that he and his mother were staying at Shiplake; after dinner Mr. Plowden called them into his new parlour, and with them Mr. Perkyns, who had married his eldest daughter, old Mr. Wollascott, young Edmund Plowden, Humphrey Sandford, and the narrator, Mr. Blundell. Then addressing himself to his company he related to them the circumstances of the wardship and generously made it over to the ward, being valued at about £2,000, without reserving any emolument to his own family¹.

Mr. Plowden married Catherine Sheldon, of Beoley, and died in 1584, aged 67; his eldest son, Edmund, only survived him two years, and is said to have died unmarried.

In *Records of the Plowden Family* we find that a daughter of Sir John Simeon, of Brightwell-Baldwin, married Edmund Plowden. (Can this be the same Edmund?) It is certain that a Lady Simeon was living at Shiplake, for amongst the old Plowden deeds is one dated April 10, 1669, being Lady Simeon's surrender of the lease of ninety-nine years for Shiplake unto Edmund Plowden. This would appear to have been a similar case to that of Sir John Fermor, of Tusmore, and his wife, Cecily Arundel.

The second son, Francis Plowden, married at Noke, in the early part of the year 1588, Mary Fermor, the daughter of Thomas Fermor, of Somerton, and of Bridget Bradshaw. The marriage settlements were dated 1588. Her parents being both dead at the time of her marriage, and her brother being probably a widower, she was married from the house of old Mrs. Bradshaw, her grandmother².

Francis and Mary Plowden had three sons, Francis, the heir; Edmund, of whom presently; and Thomas, the Jesuit. Their four

¹ The materials for this account of the Plowden family are taken from *Burke's Commoners*, vol. iii, Mrs.

Climenson's *History of Shiplake*, and Foley.

² See Blomfield's *Somerton*.

daughters were: Mary, the wife of Sir Henry Kerville; Katherine, the wife of John Chamberlain, of Shirburn, mother to Lady Abergavenny; Anne, married to Sir Arthur Lake; and the fourth and youngest, Margaret. We read of Margaret 'that she was her mother's darling, being her youngest child.' Margaret became a nun in St. Monica's, Louvain, where she was professed in 1627.

James I on his accession to the throne played havoc with the feelings of his Catholic subjects, and forgetting his own promise of amnesty and friendship only drew tighter the iron bonds which held them. In the second year of his reign the fines of £20 a month from Recusants, which had been temporarily remitted, were enforced in full, which in Plowden's case amounted to £2,600. Consequently he got leave to travel for three years, and left England in 1604. Eventually he returned to Shiplake with his wife, and they are both buried in the church there under this inscription:—

'Sacred to the Memory of Francis Plowden of Plowden, in the co. of Salop, Esq., who died the XIth Nov. 1652 after he had lived 90 years. And to the Memory of Mary his wife, sister to Sir Richard Fermor of Somerton, in the co. of Oxford, Kt. And of Dame Mary their daughter, wife to Sir Henry Kerville of Wigenhall St. Maries, in the co. of Norfolk, Kt. And of Mary the daughter and heir of the said Sir Henry and Mary Kerville, who died an infant. All lying buried under this stone in expectation of a joyfull resurrection. Requiescant in Pace¹.

Before going on to the next descent we here append a short account of Mr. Plowden's second son, Sir Edmund.

The second son of Mr. Thomas Plowden became Sir Edmund, 'lord earl, palatine governor and Captain general' of the Province of New Albion in America, that part of the coast extending from Chesapeake Bay, including New York, northwards to Cape Cod. Long Island was once called 'Isle Plowden.' He and his wife sailed in 1620 with a large company of emigrants to found a new plantation. He was back in England in 1640, and in considerable trouble, as we read in *4th Report Hist. MSS.*:—

'April 22, 1640. Petition of Sir Edmund Plowden, Knt., prisoner in the Tower Chamber of the Fleet. Has been defrauded of his estate and wrongfully imprisoned by the unfair dealings of his father and brother and John Chamberlain (his brother-in-law). Prays for his discharges and redress.'

¹ *Rawlinson MSS.*, B 400 b, folio 119, and Wood MSS., C 11.

Again, on 30th April we find the 'Petition of Dame Mabel his poor distressed wife, for payment of her Alimony'; and on the same date:—

'A memorial in behalf of Mr. Plowden in answer to the petition of Sir Edmund Plowden who has prosecuted his father, his brothers, sisters, nephews, near uncles, kindred and acquaintances by several suits for 21 years and never yet recovered anything.

Prays for relief and maintenance of Lady Plowden at length obliged to separate from her husband.

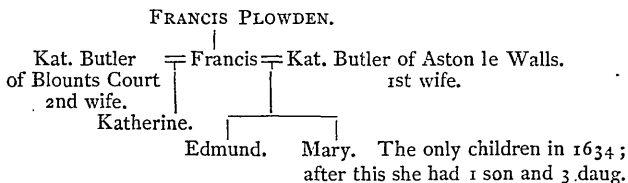
Nov. 10, 1640. Petition of Mabel wife of Sir Edmund Plowden for execution of an order of the High Commission Court granting her Alimony on account of the cruelty of her husband.'

Same day. 'Petition of her husband in the "Fleet" against the above & for enquiry.'

The above needs no comment. Sir Edmund survived until 1655, when he made his will and styles himself as of Wanstead in Hants. His wife was daughter of Peter Mariner, and from them descend the Plowdens of Lassam, Hants¹.

In 1680 Thomas Plowden, of Lasham, Southamptonshire, is returned among the Papists².

Francis Plowden, dying very old in 1592, left his eldest son Francis, born 1588, in possession of his estate. He had married Elizabeth Butler, the heiress of Alban Butler, of Aston in the Woldes, co. Northants, and made Aston a frequent place of residence. The *Visitation*, 1634, gives us the following descent and marriages:—



See the epitaph in Shiplake Church. The two wives bearing the same Christian and surnames naturally leads to confusion.

'Memoriae Francisci Plowden arm. uxor Katherina consecravit, uxorem duxit primo Eliz. fil. & haered. Albani Butler de Aston anglie on the Walls in com. Northanton arm.—ex qua habuit Edm. haered. ejus et Mariam.

¹ Mrs. Climenson's *Shiplake and Plowden Memoirs*.

² *11th Report Hist. MSS.*, App. ii, p. 226.

Ex Katherina quae vidua Richardi Butler de Callan in com. Kilkenne in Hibernia, arm. filia et cohered. Thom. Audley de Morton in com. Norfolk, arm. habuit filium et quatuor filias.

Obiit 10 Sep. A. D. 1661, aet. suae 73¹.

The following interesting account of the family troubles comes from the hand of the daughter Elizabeth, who became a nun in the same convent at Louvain with her young aunt Margaret².

'When the troubles began in England between the King and his Parliament and Catholics were chiefly plundered, then did this good gentleman feel well his part of the misery, living then at his house named Shiplake in Oxfordshire, which was finely seated hard by the Thames, whence he might when he pleased, go by water to divers shires, as also go to London, and thus he lived there with divers of his friends with him so as they were about sixty in number, and keeping a good house they would then sometimes kindly entertain the bargemen that came that way, who gave them but an ill return for it, giving notice to the Parliament force, and belying Mr. Plowden by saying that he mustered men for the King. A great company came and set upon the house, shooting at it, so as all who lived there were fain to fly in haste, and they plundered the house and took all away. After that Mr. Plowden was forced still to fly from one place to another to keep himself out of their hands. Then he came and lived awhile at Reading until that was also besieged and taken by the Parliament, yet upon condition, that those within, who would, might safely depart away. Whereupon Mr. Plowden's household, taking their chiefest goods and five hundred pounds with them, departed in a coach out of the town.

But when they were come forth, the Puritan Earl of Essex said to his soldiers, 'Come, boys, plunder now!' so they took the coach with all their goods and money, leaving them only the clothes on their backs, and they came thus and lived at Oxford, until that town also was surrendered. After that they were fain to retire themselves to their house named Aston and to live very privately, where they were so beloved by the tenants that they redeemed for them the house and goods which were sequestered, who repaid them again. They lived but poorly by reason of the troubles, not daring to have anything but what was merely necessary, being still in danger of plundering. They were much beloved of their neighbours, by reason that Mr. Plowden, having skill in law, did help them in their business, and his wife, who was skilled in surgery, did very charitably assist them in their necessities.'

The third son of Francis Plowden the elder, and of Mary Fermor, was Thomas the Jesuit, known also as Father Salisbury; he is said to have lived constantly with his brother Francis.

¹ Francis Plowden, junr., Ashton in the Wall, co. Northants, Dec. 5, 1646.

¹ *Rawlinson MSS.*, u. s.

² See *Louvain Records*.

Begs to compound on Oxford Articles for his sequestered estate. Was there at its surrender and in arms against Parliament.'

Feb. 14, 1648. 'His re-sequestration ordered, because though he obtained letters for detaining the rents in the tenants' hands till his Composition was finished, he had elapsed his time, and thus lost the benefit of his articles.'

Jan. 10, 1654. 'Begs to contract on Recusants' Act of Oct. 24, 1653 for two-thirds of his sequestered estate.'

Claimant on the Estate.

June 26, 1655. 'Mat. Appletree of London, begs discharge of four yard lands in Deddington, co. Oxon, purchased of Jerome White, and sequestered for recusancy of Fras. Plowden, who never held the estate.'

Aug. 11. 'Plowden certified to have sequestered lands in Deddington, value £52 13s. 4d. a year¹.'

Oct. 31, 1650. 'County Committee for Oxon. We also posted the estate of Francis Plowden, set for £36, but no one has offered more than £32. Our meetings have been so frequent at Oxford and Deddington that no particulars suffered damage by our remissness².'

We now come to Edmund Plowden, of Aston le Walls and of Shiplake, son of Francis, junr., who was born in 1616 and died only five years after his father. He was apparently a good deal abroad, and we find him in 1646 applying to Parliament for a licence to go to his wife and family in France and to return as he shall have occasion³. His wife was Elizabeth Cotton, and she long survived him. In 1656 he very astutely escaped the registration of the family estates by taking advantage of the false spelling of the clerk.

August 20, 1656. 'Edmund Plowden, Shiplake, Oxon. Registrar's certificate that neither he nor any of the same name has ever been seized or sequestered or ever compounded or had any charge of delinquency or recusancy exhibited against him, but in a list of sequestered persons returned from London without date, is inserted as follows "Plodden of Shiplock³."'

This Edmund Plowden seems to have lived at Shiplake while his father Francis, who died in 1661, lived at Aston le Walls. In like manner, according to the 'Composition' of Francis junior, he, Francis, lived at Aston while his father, Francis senior, lived at Shiplake.

Francis who married Mary Fermor, lived at Shiplake, died 1652.

Their son Francis married Elizabeth Butler, lived at Aston, died 1661.

¹ *Calendar for Compounding*, Part ii, p. 1592.

² *Ib.*, Part i, p. 348.

³ *6th Report Hist. MSS.*, p. 141 a.

⁴ *Calendar for Compounding*, Part v, p. 3245.

Their son Edmund married Elizabeth Cotton, lived at Shiplake, died 1666.

Their son Edmund married P. Drummond, lived at Shiplake, died Nov. 1677.

Their son William sold Shiplake and lived at Aston, and left it for ever.

The second son of Edmund and Elizabeth Cotton was Francis Plowden, Controller to the Household of James II. His wife was Mary Stafford-Howard, granddaughter to the Viscount Stafford who suffered in 1678, and niece to Lady A. Holman, of Warkworth. In her widowhood she is noticed among the manuscripts of Sir Henry Bedingfield:—

‘*Ap.* 21, 1714. “James Rex,” gives a discharge to Mary widow of Francis Plowden, late comptroller of the Household. Dated at Bar-le-Duc, the 13th year of our reign¹.’

Among the parish records at Aston le Walls occurs the following, 1618:—

‘Edmund Plowden, son of Francis P. the younger, was born at Shiplake Court, co. Oxon., Feb. 1, 1616, as his said father reporteth to us; he is desirous to have his son’s birth registered in this book because he is heir-apparent to the Lordship of Aston-on-the-Walls².’

Edmund Plowden, the subject of this ‘Composition’ of 1656, must have been living at Shiplake whilst his parents dwelt at Aston. The quickness with which he seizes upon the blunder in the name and thereby saves the family estate from fines savours of the ready wit of his ancestor, the first Edmund of Shiplake.

The next head of the family was another Edmund, whose wife was Penelope, daughter of Sir Maurice Drummond, Bart., Gentleman Usher to the Queen’s Bedchamber during the reigns of Charles I and James I. Her mother was Dorothy Lower, and her three sisters were married to . . . Middlemore, to . . . Caryll, and to John Trevanion.

During the minority of her son William, Dorothy Plowden managed the estates for many years. William, having become a widower before he was twenty-one, left the country, and took active service abroad. Her four younger sons entered the Society of Jesus, one of whom, George, became a Fellow of Magdalen College under the Catholic rule in that house. Upon his becoming of age in 1689, with the consent of his mother and brother Francis, William Plowden sold the estate at Shiplake to Mr. Robert Jennings for £5,800. His mother lived there until the sale, and it is supposed that she died in Belgium. It appears

¹ *Report of Hist. MSS.*, p 240.

² *Plowden Memoirs.*

that another Mrs. Plowden continued in the house, which was called 'Grovelands' until 1694; she was probably Elizabeth Cotton, who is known to have long survived her husband.

'Will of Elizabeth Plowden of Shiplake, co. Oxon., widow and relict of Edmund Plowden, of the same, Esq. To be buried in "the Augusteens Dames' church if I die in Paris." To her sons George, Cotton, and Joseph to each £20, and to her son Cotton half her silver plate and to her brother Cotton, his wife and each of his children 20s. apiece for a ring. To her grandchild Dorothy Draicot her best diamond ring. To her servant Eliz. Heughs one whole year's wages £7, and all her wearing clothes, if she be with her at her death. To Judith¹ 20s. and to old Martha East 40s. Her lease from the Dean and Chapter of the Parsonage of Shiplake she gives to her son Francis Plowden, whom she appoints sole executor. Date 21 May, 1691².'

After this date there is no further mention of the family at Shiplake. In 1803 the house, built by the first Edmund, was pulled down. A picture of it is to be seen in the Vicarage, reproduced in Mrs. Climençon's book.

We now revert to Colonel William Plowden, son of Edmund and Penelope Drummond, who was a Colonel in James II's Guards, and fought for his King at the battle of the Boyne. Having been at St. Germain's with the King he was greatly suspected by the Whigs around Banbury. In the years 1714 and 1716, the date of the Earl of Mar's rebellion, many soldiers were quartered in Banbury, which was full of 'Non-Jurors,' and the close proximity of two papist Recusant families, Holman of Warkworth and Plowden of Aston le Walls, probably added fresh zeal to the Puritan spirit of Banbury. At this time Colonel Plowden was insulted by the magistrates of Banbury, who seized and impounded his six carriage horses as he was coming into the town. This was in virtue of the Act passed against 'Non-Jurors.' Mr. Plowden left the neighbourhood in consequence, and dismantled his house at Aston³. This closes the connexion of the Plowden family with Oxfordshire. Colonel Plowden married three times; by his third wife he had three sons, who died *s.p.* and were probably Jesuit Fathers.

¹ Thomas Brown, Vicar, presents Judith Broughton, widow, a papist⁴.

¹ Probably Judith Broughton mentioned in *Stonyhurst MS.*

amongst Lord Stafford's MSS.

² 10th Report Hist. MSS., App. iv, p. 166. Signed and with armorial seal

³ See Reesley's *Banbury*.

⁴ *Stonyhurst MS.*, 1706.

Mrs. Climenson, the authoress of the *History of Shiplake*, tells me that in all probability this Judith Broughton was widow of Bartholomew Broughton, Steward to the Plowdens. He died in 1687. There is no burial entry in the Register of Judith Broughton. In 1894 a secret cupboard was found in a wall of the farm-house still standing, occupied by the Broughtons, and close to the site of the old 'Court.'

It may be supposed that the holy vessels for Mass were kept in this cupboard, as it is only reasonable to conjecture that the Plowden family, when they left Shiplake, would make arrangements for Mass to be said somewhere in the parish.

CAVERSHAM

As early as the twelfth century Our Lady of Caversham was a noted Pilgrimage. Her chapel stood upon the bridge and was under the care of the Canons of Notley. Three hundred years passed after the desecration of this shrine, and not until 1895 was the name of Our Lady of Caversham again venerated. In July of that year, upon the Feast of Mount Carmel, Mass was said in the domestic chapel of the Sisters of Mercy of Seez, by the Bishop of the Diocese, the Rt. Rev. Edward Ilsley. On Low Sunday in the following year the Rev. C. Klomp, who was appointed Chaplain to the Sisters at 'The Firs,' said the first parochial Mass there. At that time there were not more than twelve practising Catholics in the district, but by the next Low Sunday, 1897, the number had increased to eighty-one. The Rev. Raymond Haskew had in the meantime succeeded the first Chaplain at Caversham.

'Caversham. Ralph Sheldon, Esq., £300 per an. Lives at Weston War¹.' (See Steeple Barton.)

'Mrs. Grimsditch, who has no estate that I know of.' (See Little Stoke, &c.)

'Mr. Forbert, who has no estate beside the lease of the house that he lives in: also presents Mr. Bellair, Mr. Dalmas, Mr. Lewis, John Patrick, all servants to the Rt. Honble, the Earl and Countess of Kildare and live in their family; they have no estate².'

'Mrs. Grimsditch died 28 July 1713³.'

¹ List of papists (kept at Woodstock), July, 1706.

² *Stonyhurst MS.*, 1706.

³ Waterperry Catholic Register.

In Caversham Church near the pulpit on the south wall :—

‘Near this place lyse Mrs. Frances Beillingham the wife of Mr. John Forbet, who departed this life the 1st March 1717-18 ¹.’

EARL OF KILDARE ².

This was Robert Fitzgerald, father of the first Viscount Leinster, of Taplow, by Lady Mary O’Brien. He was one of the Justices, and is said to have been ‘one of the most pious noblemen alive.’ He died in 1743-4. The Earl bought Caversham Manor from the Craven family. The house is described as having been a fair red-brick building surrounded by fine avenues of trees. Here it was that King Charles I had his last interview with his children.

There is no probability of the Earl of Kildare having been a Catholic, although his Lady might have been so ³. The parish of Caversham is indebted to them for large endowments for the use of the poor. The old house was pulled down by the Earl of Cadogan, who bought it in 1718 from the Earl of Kildare.

A FAMILY AT CAVERSHAM NAMED ALEXANDERS OR MYLWARDS.

‘William Mylwards (papist) of Caversham, etc.’ ⁴

In Elizabeth’s reign William Alexander or Milward was seised of part of the rectory estate at Caversham, and was then in dispute about it with Thomas Brigham, of Cane End. There are notices of this family, who were Catholics, in the *Chronicles of Finchampstead*, at which place they appear to have settled.

BRIGHAM OF CANON OR CANE END.

This portion of Caversham takes its name from the Augustine Canons of Notley Abbey, Bucks., who had a house, chapel, and lands here ⁵.

¹ *Oxfordshire Archaeological Society*, 1894, p. 42.

² See *Complete Peerage*, by G. E. C., vol. iv; *Oxford Arch. Soc.*, u.s., p. 20.

³ See Kidlington, where it appears

Lord Leinster had a Catholic tutor for his boy.

⁴ *Oxford Arch. Soc.*, u.s., p. 45.

⁵ *Ib.*

In 1543 Henry VIII granted by Letters Patent the office of bailiff of the manor of Caversham to Anthony Brigham, and about the same time sold to him the house and lands of the Canons at Canon End.

In his *Dictionary of Catholics*¹, Mr. Gillow tells us that this family descended from the Brighams of Yorkshire, and of one Nicholas—probably brother to the above-mentioned Anthony, who was a man of polite learning and died in 1559—that he bore the expense of restoring and removing the monument of Geoffrey Chaucer in Westminster Abbey to its present site.

The family held positions in the Royal household for several generations. In the reign of Elizabeth the owner of the Canon End estate was one of the surveyors of the Queen's stables, and in 1624 and subsequent years a Mr. Richard Brigham was coachbuilder to James I. Two long bills for coach-building presented to the King by him are noticed in the *6th Report on Historical MSS.* (p. 326), and it is mentioned that he was the first maker in England of carriages to open and shut.

In Brigham's Chancel on the north side of Caversham Church are the family tombs, but oddly enough they are all of women :—

'Rachell Awbrey, wife of John Awbrey of Reere, co. Wilts., daughter of Thomas Brigham of Cane End, d. 1652, leaving one son and two daughters, aged 24.'

'Mrs. Rachel Barker, dau. of Mr. Thomas Brigham late of Cane-End, wife of Mr. Will Barker of this parish, d. 1715-16, aged 46.'

'Mrs. Mary Fogg, widow, d. of Mr. Thomas Brigham, d. 1708, aged 43.'

'Dorothy Brigham, dau. of Thomas Brigham, gent. 3 years. 1630².'

The Yorkshire branch of the family of Brigham remained Catholic to the end. Of them the Rev. Henry Brigham, S.J., was priest at Oxford. His father sold the old estate in Yorkshire in 1802³.

The Cane End property fell to two co-heiresses, daughters of Thomas Brigham. Bridget married John Reade, of Ipsden; Elizabeth married . . . Vanderstegen, and had Cane End⁴.

¹ Vol. i, p. 296.

² *Oxford Arch. Soc.*, u. s. There were Catholic Awbreys living in Walingford. 'Expended at summer assizes 1690 in prosecuting one Awbrey a papist, £15.' See MSS. of Corporation of Reading. As to the Fogg, one married

a Powell of Sandford, and the fortunes of the Fogs of Kent may be followed in *Miscellany, Genealogical and Heraldic*, by J. J. Howard, 3 vols., 1880, p. 316.

³ *Gillow's Dict.*

⁴ *Records of the Redes.*

MAPLEDURHAM

FAMILY OF BLOUNT.

Here we only propose to set down a few scattered notes, relating to matters of interest to our subject, concerning the family of Blount of Mapledurham.

In the fifteenth century the Blounts held large estates in the county. Asthall in Wychwood came to them by the marriage of Isabel, daughter of Sir John de Cornwell, with Sir John Blount; their grandson Humphrey held the manor of Aston Lye in 1478.

‘Christopher Blount held the manor at Tainton, Glos., in 1596, worth £200 per an.¹’

Here we find the family well established in the north-west of Oxfordshire and their influence further reinforced by the marriage of Sir Michael Blount, of Iver, Bucks., with the heiress of de la More² of Bicester. This Sir Michael obtained possession of Mapledurham from the Annesleys, who held it in 1574³, and built the beautiful house still standing intact.

When the Civil Wars broke out the family, of course, fought upon the Royal side, and paid their toll for their loyalty. The head of the family, Sir Charles Blount, was killed at Oxford while on garrison duty during the siege. Wood notes, ‘He was killed at the north gate port by the sentinel for not standing at his command.’ He was buried the day after his death, June 2, and a small white marble slab is in the chancel of St. Mary’s Church⁴. He left two sons and two daughters by his wife Dorothy, heiress to Sir Francis Clerke, of Houghton Conquest, Beds., who must have been very young at the time of their father’s death. The eldest son, Michael, who was about twenty in 1649, was killed by a footman in London that year, and his heir was his brother Walter. In 1652 the Parliament ordered the sale of their father’s estates, the claimants being Walter, his son, and Lister Blount, his brother. The only estate of theirs sold in Oxfordshire seems to have been the property at Bicester.

‘Claimants on the estate of Sir Charles Blount (late) Maple-Durham, Oxon. Walter Blount his son. Lister Blount, brother to Sir Charles

¹ *Historical MSS. Commission Report* (1895), p. 553.

² See Bampton, p. 175.

³ See ‘Visitations.’

⁴ See Wood’s *City of Oxford*, vol. iii, O. H. S., p. 114.

Blount. Walter Blount to be heard about the sequestration of the estate of the late Sir Charles Blount.'

Oct. 15, 1650. 'Col. Henry Martin, his kinsman and guardian, states that Walter succeeded his elder brother Michael, who died a minor; that with leave of the Council of State he was sent to travel for his education, and is now at Saumur in France, with Capt. Francis Messervy, who served Parliament seven years; that he is untainted in religion, yet his father having been a Papist delinquent, the estate is sequestered for the son's supposed recusancy.'

Oct. 15. 'The County Committee to certify date and cause of sequestration, and whether the estate has been discharged since the father's death, and Brereton to report.'

Dec. 6. 'Order that letters be sent to the County Committee of Worcester and Salop, to sequester Walter Blount as a Papist delinquent.'

Dec. 17. 'Brereton to examine Walter Blount's title to the sequestered estate of Sir Charles Blount his father, and Michael his elder brother, and report.'

March 11, 1651. 'The woods in two-thirds of the estate to be felled & sold.'

March 18. 'Order on report that the estate held by Sir Charles for his life only be discharged, & that the petitioner hold it on security to answer the profits if Parliament so order it; but the other estate limited to Sir Charles & his heirs male, is to continue under sequestration (till compounded for).'

June 2, 1652. 'Lister Blount begs leave to prove his claim to, and the discharge of lands in Bicester, conveyed on trust by his elder brother Sir C. Blount, in 5 Charles, for debts for which he, Ant. Langston, and Thos. Franklin had become security; Langston is dead, and the estate in law is Franklin's, but the benefit should accrue to petitioner, who is ruined by judgments and executions for Sir Charles' debts. Was unable to produce the deed before, and therefore on March 18, 1651 the estate was continued under sequestration, but can produce it now.'

June 2, 1652. 'Referred to Brereton.'

Aug. 5. 'Complains that tho' he has long waited, Brereton is unable to report, because the County Com. have not returned the cause of sequestration. Begs an order therefore and meanwhile to receive his rents on good security, being in danger of prison for Sir Charles' debts; or at least for the rents to remain in the tenants' hands.'

Aug. 5. 'Co. Comtee. to certify the cause of sequestration.'

Jan. 20, 1654. 'Lister Blount's estate ordered to be re-sequestered as having been illegally discharged.'

March 10. 'On certificate that he was sequestered for delinquency 24 July 1646, and discharged after full hearing by the Co. Comtee. for Oxon., 31 May 1648, the discharge confirmed, unless the Co. Comtee. show cause to the contrary, or he have been guilty of treason since 30 Jan. 1649.'

Jan. 28, 1653. 'Richard Blount of Ewelme, co. Oxon., begs reference to counsel of a deed whereby, 10 James, his father Sir Richard Blount of

Maple-Durham, settled on him an annuity of £40 on lands in Bicester, which descending to Walter, son of Sir Charles Blount, are sequestered for his recusancy. Suffered much for his fidelity to Parliament and has always had his allowance, till it was lately stopped on the general instructions.'

Jan. 28. 'Co. Comttee. to certify and Brereton to report.'

May 13, 1653. 'Thomas Lord Richardson and Sir John Pettus, executors of Sir Richard Gurney, beg payment of £1,000 balance due to them on lands in Bicester. . . . mortgage upon Sir C. Blount's estate there, etc. Also Wm. Hall, Minister of Bicester, claims unpaid tithes from same estate.'

March 9, 1654. 'Another claim against Lister by Anne Plumton.'

'Purchase of the Estates.'

April 4, 1654. 'Discharge from sequestration of Ratcliffe Manor, co. Oxon., forfeited by Sir Charles Blount, and bought from the Treason Trustees of John Wildman, the whole purchase money being defalked in part of a debt of £10,000 to Robert Jason, assigned to Wildman¹.'

'Ratcliffe' was probably part of the Bicester estate.

Walter Blount, dying without children, left his estates to his cousin, Lister Blount, grandson of Sir Michael and Mary de la More. This Lister was the father, by Mary Englefield of White Knights, of Martha and Teresa, the two devoted friends of Pope, the poet. Martha Blount was Pope's 'Parthenia,' while Teresa styled herself 'Zephelinda'; they died in 1688 and 1690.

'Maple-Durham. Lyster Blount, Esq., his wife, Teresa and Martha his daughters, Elizabeth Blount, spinster; Charles Grimstone, gent.²; and eight servants; Fletcher, widow³.'

'Michael Blount of Maple-Durham, Esq., entailed estate there. £1,095 os. 8d.'

In *Catholic Gentleman's Magazine*, 1818, p. 330, occurs a letter of instruction and congratulation from the Rev. Alban Butler to Miss Blount upon her marriage, dated August 16, 1765.

Confirmation was given here in 1770. Six people confirmed. Rev. P. Needham, O.S.F., Pastor.

In 1786, twenty-three people. R.D. Appleton, Pastor.

In 1805, twenty-one people.

In 1810, seven people. C. Lefevre, Pastor.

In 1819, ———⁵.

¹ *Calendar for Compounding*, Part iii, p. 2245.

² For Charles Grimstone, see Payne's *Records of English Catholics*.

³ List of papists, July, 1706 (kept at Woodstock).

⁴ Cosin's *Lists*, 1715.

⁵ *Confirmation Book*.

MAPLEDURHAM PRIESTS.

Father Ed. Madew, O.S.F. ¹

'The Rev. Ed. Madew was priest at Ufton Court, Berkshire, in 1761, until his death in 1782. He died there, May 13th, aged 79. Father Madew copied out an account of a Confirmation held by Bishop Fisher alias Challoner in 1741. This shews that the Bishop with many others used an alias, he goes on to say, "I left Maple Durham Dec. the 5th 1758." He went thence to Grove Park near Warwick ².'

1770. Joseph Needham, O.S.F. Provincial in 1776.

1783. Dec. 18. Rev. Ed. Winstanley.

1786. R. D. Appleton ³.

1810. Rev. C. Lefebvre. French émigré.

From the *Catholic Directory*:—

1866. Served from Reading.

1867. Served from Chelsea by Rev. P. M. Bosio.

1870. Rev. Victor de la Croix.

1890. Vacant.

1891. Rev. J. M. Lillis.

Rev. W. Stoker.

The present chapel dates from the year 1797.

IBSTONE

THOMPSON.

Edmund Plowden, of Plowden, married on July 20, 1755, in St. Martin's Church, London, Miss Lucy Thompson, of Ibstone. She was the daughter of William Thompson, of Leicester Square and of Ibstone, Oxon., and granddaughter and co-heiress of Sir Berkeley Lucy, of Broxbourne, Herts.; her sister Winefred married Robert Drummond, of Cadland, Hants, banker, Charing Cross.

Mr. and Mrs. Plowden went to reside at Ibstone in 1756 and continued there for some years, and doubtless kept a Chaplain, but we have no record of any Missionary affairs here ⁴.

¹ See *Franciscans in England*.

ciscans, u. s.

² *Merry England*, Jan., 1888.

⁴ Taken partly from *Records of the Plowden family*.

³ For a Father Henry A. see *Fran-*

APPENDIX

The names recorded here are mostly those of Clergy who have not been localized. In each portion of the work the Clergy of the Mission will be found in their own places.

SECULAR CLERGY IN OXFORDSHIRE

Although we know that the Secular Clergy have never failed in England, it is only a very meagre list of names which we have reclaimed from oblivion. Naturally the Religious Orders, having a very strong executive both at home and abroad, have been able to preserve for us the names of many more of their priests than the Seculars have been able to do.

In 1583 we find the names of a few priests entertained by Catholic families around Oxford, including the brothers Pitt, born at Iffley, and who laboured both here and abroad; in the same year the Rev. Richard Yaxley was serving upon this Mission, and he gained his crown with his friend, the Rev. George Nichols, in 1589. In 1604 a 'Seminary,' Adam Green, was in Oxford gaol; at the same time Bd. George Napper was working amongst his fellow townfolk and suffered in Oxford in 1610, and about the same period a Rev. Edmund Smith reports himself as from Crowmarsh. Father Wolf assigns his conversion, as a boy, to a secular priest named Doulton.

Thomas Ford, admitted 21 April, 1567. President of Trinity College, born in Devon, went to Dover 1571, and became Catholic; executed at Tyburn, 28 May, 1581¹.

The Bishops having failed, and an organized Head being found necessary, an Archpriest was appointed over the Secular clergy about the end of Elizabeth's reign. Two only succeeded each other, the office being extremely unpopular and giving rise to serious dissensions between the Secular and Regular Clergy.

Things thus being in a very unedifying condition, certain of the Clergy petitioned the Pope to accord them a Bishop: the Records of the Chapter inform us of the matter.

RECORDS OF THE 'OLD CHAPTER'²

'List of priests desiring a Bishop during the time of George Birkheads being the Archpriest; viz. 1608-1614.

¹ *Fasti*, ed. Bliss, vol. i, p. 179.

Chapter' Archives, given me by the Rev.

² These notes are from the 'Old Chapter' Archives, given me by the Rev. Raymond Stanfield, Custodian, in 1900.

The names of the different counties where the priests lived :—

Oxford :—

Dr. Bishop.

Mr. Clinch.

Mr. White.

Mr. Napper.

Mr. Robinson

Mr. Whitasses.

Mr. Trichenor.

Mr. Edmund Cannons.’

In pursuance of this Dr. William Bishop was consecrated in Paris on the 4th June, 1623, Bishop of Chalcedon to the Vicariate of England. Being advanced in years he only lived until April, 1624, when he died near London in the house of Sir Basil Brook.

Dr. Bishop was succeeded in his office in January, 1625, by Dr. Richard Smith, a native of Lincolnshire, who had entered upon the English Mission in 1603. He received the news of his appointment to the Vicariate while acting as Head of a College in Paris. Dr. Smith soon arrived in England, and forgetting prudence, among the difficulties of the times, he ended by drawing upon himself both the dislike of the Clergy and the suspicion of the Court.

The following letter gives us some insight into the Bishop’s mode of life :—

‘ Doctor Smith lived ordinarily in the house of Lady Mordaunt, widow, mother to the Lord Mordaunt and sister to the President of Wales, at Turvie in Beds, within three miles of Bedford, the house in the midst of a Park. From them he used to go to the Ladie Dormers in Bucks at Wing or Ivinge, or at Chanders, which is a house in a wood neere Aylesbury, and neere that place Anthony Dormer her son entertaineth him at his house within two miles of Missenden. Thence he useth to go to Cowdray to Lord Montagues; thence to Count Arundel at Wardour and thence to Grafton to the Lord of Shrewsburies; thence to Sir Basil Brookes near Shrewsbury and thence into Lancashire¹. He travelleth in his coach with four horses accompanied with nine or ten priests. Hee seldom cometh to London but employeth Fisher for the most part at the Lady Dormers, etc.²’

In consequence of this publicity he was ‘ Proclaimed ’ and banished in 1629. He retired to Paris, where he lived for many years in the Convent of the Augustinian nuns in the Rue St. Victor, and there he died in 1655 and was buried in their church, aged 88.

Aubrey says in 1642, ‘ I gott Mr. Hesketh, Mr. Dobson’s man, a priest to draw the ruins of Osney two or three wayes before ’twas pulled down³.’

In 1653 the Chapter ordered Collections throughout England for the support of the Dean, &c. The sum allotted to the Archdeaconry of Oxford to be gathered therefrom was £4 and Mr. Philip Clappett was to be the Collector⁴.

A curious Parliamentary Paper, entitled *The Pope’s Brief or Rome’s Inquiry after the Death of their Catholiques, etc., etc.*, was printed by command of

¹ *Athenae*, and Mazière Brady.

³ *Brief Lives*, vol. i, p. 38, ed. by

² Foley, vol. i, p. 138, quoting from *Parliamentary History* (1807), Debates, 1628.

A. Clark, M.A.

⁴ *Chapter Notes*.

Parliament in 1643. This contains an inquiry, by order of Pope Urban VIII, from the Archbishop of Cambrey into the circumstances attending the deaths of several priests for the Faith, and together with a letter was taken from the person of one Walter Winsor, a papist, who landed at Great Yarmouth from Flanders on Sept. 26, 1643. Appended to the Commission was a Catalogue of Vicars-General and Archdeacons under the Bishop of Chalcedon, 1625, and a proposal for a 'New Division' dated 1643 addressed to the Bishop, Dr. Smith.

The lists in the 'New Division' are very full, and apportion the counties of England and Wales into Vicarships, each Vicarship having several Archdeaconries within itself. The division was not intended to be permanent, but apparently only of a tentative character. The book, *The Pope's Brief*, gives the order of the Vicars-General in 1625, under which we find Oxford arranged with Warwick, Northampton, and Worcester, under Master John Bosville, D.D., Episcopal Vicar, and at the same time Master Anthony Tenchnor was Archdeacon of Oxford and Berkshire.

The 'New Division' proposed to place Oxford under one Episcopal Vicariate, with seven other counties as the fourth Vicariate, viz. Bucks., Northants, Leicester, Stafford, Warwick, Worcester, and Chester (Berkshire was relegated to the second Vicariate), and to have four Archdeacons. 'The priests living in the counties of Oxford and Bucks. are: Master Button, already Archdeacon of Stafford and Chester; Master Barlo; Master Bruerton¹; Mr. Venables; Mr. Laurence; Master Suttlo, Mr. Turberville; Master Jennings; Master Humphrey Hattle; Mr. William Ellis. Oxford and Bucks. are the counties perhaps most fitted for this Vicar's District as Dr. Bosville is already Archdeacon.'

We here append the full title of this Paper :—

THE POPE'S BRIEF

OR

ROME'S INQUIRY AFTER THE DEATH OF THEIR CATHOLICS HERE IN ENGLAND DURING THESE TIMES OF WARRE.

'Discovered by two Commissioners, the one² sent from the Pope that now is, the other from the Bishop and Duke of Cambrey, to several Commissioners in England, whereby the deaths of such Catholics may be returned to the See of Rome to be determined (as may be fit for the glory of God). Together with a Catalogue of the Vicars-General and Archdeacons under the Bishop of Chalcedon for the settling of the Popish

¹ Is Master Bruerton identical with Richard Broughton, native of Great Stukely, Hunts.; educated at English College, Rheims; ordained priest, 1593; appointed assistant to the Archpriest, a Canon of the Chapter, and Vicar-General to Dr. Smith. Lived some-

times in Oxford, where he was entered as a sojourner, June 19, 1626. Studied British Antiquities, and published many works. Died Feb. 15, 1634-5, and buried near his parents at Great Stukeley. See *Gillow's Dict.*

² Paper.

Hierarchy in England, with divers letters concerning the same. Also several letters and papers of the Lord Inchiquin, in Ireland, intercepted by the Earl of Warwick and sent to the House of Commons, wherein is discovered the ungrateful and perfidious dealings of the said Lord with the Parliament of England.

Ordered by the Commons in Parliament that the said Commissioners together with the Hierarchy and several letters and papers intercepted, be forthwith printed and published.

H. Elsyng. Cler. Parl. D. Com.

London: Printed for Edw. Husbands, Dec: 7: 1645¹.

'The Commission of Francis Vander Burch Archb. of Cambrey to enquire into the circumstance of the deaths of several priests in England for the Faith under the command of Urban 8th. This with a letter, was taken at Great Yarmouth with other papers, from Walter Winsor a papist who brought the same from Flanders, 26 Sep. 1643.'

To the above paper is appended the following 'Catalogue of the Vicars generall and Archdeacons in England under the Bishop of Chalcedon.'

'Vicars generall constituted by the above Bishop, 1st June, 1625. Master John Colleton Episcopall Vicar in the 11 provinces under-written, Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridge, and the Isle of Ely, Bedford, Buckingham, Middlesex, and Hartford, the City of London and the Suburbs and the City of Westminster. To Master J. C. being disabled through old age is added a Coadjutor, Master Gregory (perhaps George) Fisher, alias Muscot, Archdeacon of Surrey and Middlesex. Feb. 1626.

2. Edward Bennet Epis. Vicar in the 16 provinces under-written, viz. Wales both S. and N., the Isle of Angl., Hereford, Shropshire, and Chester.

3. Master John Bostile (Bosvile) D.D. Epis. V. in the 5 provinces under-written, Oxford, Warwick, Northampton, Stafford, and Worcester.

4. Master Broughton Epis. V. in the seven provinces underwritten, Huntingdon, Rutland, Lincoln, Leicester, Nottingham, Darby, and York.

5. Master John Jackson Epis V. in the 6 provinces, Dorsetshire, Wiltshire, Gloucester, Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall.

6. Mr. Cuthbert Trollop, Ep. V. in the 5 provinces, Lancaster, Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmoreland, and the Bishoprick of Durham.

7. Master Benjamin Norton Epis. V. in the five provinces, Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire, and Berks.'

'Archdeacons and their provinces.

1. Master John Colleton, Archdeacon in the Co. of Kent.

2. Master Arthur Pitts, Achd. in Cities of London, Westminster, and Suburbs.

¹ This is noticed in *The Month*, April, 1870, vol. xii, p. 478, by Father Morris, S.J., in an article entitled 'A Parliamentary Paper of the

Seventeenth Century.' His copy was amongst the papers in the British Museum, the 'King's Pamphlets.' In Bodley, Art. 4^o, B 22.

3. Master John Bosvile, D.D., Archdeacon in the cos. of Warwick and Leicester.
4. Mr. Edward Bennet, Archd. in cos. of Bucks. and Bedford.
5. Mr. Thomas Wright, D.D., Archd. in the cos. of Norfolk, Cambridge, and the Isle of Ely. To Dr. Wright now resident beyond seas, is constituted as a Coadjutor Master Elisha Brabant, 11 Feb. 1626.
6. Master Richard Broughton, Archd. in the cos. of Hunts., Rutland, and Lincoln.
7. Master John Jackson, Archd. in the cos. of Wilts. and Hants.
8. Master Cuthbert Trollop, Archd. in the cos. of Northumberland and Bishoprick of Durham.
9. Master Roger Strickland, Archd. in co. of York.
10. Master John Mitchell, Archd. in co. of Lancashire. To Master J. M. weak thro' old age is constituted as coad. Master John Redman, 10th Feb. 1626.
11. Joseph Heynes, Archd. in cos. Essex and Suffolk. To which Heynes Master John Southcote D.D. is coadjutor.
12. Richard Button, Archd. in cos. of Stafford and Chester.
13. Humphrey Hanmer, Archd. in the cos. of S. Wales and Hereford, to whom succeeded Mr. Guin.
14. Mathew Britton, D.D., Archd. in cos. of Westmoreland and Cumberland.
15. Master George Fisher, Archd. in cos. of Middlesex and Surrey.
16. Humphrey Hughes, Archd. in the county of N. Wales.
17. Master Thomas Moore, Archd. in cos. of Hartford and Northampton.
18. Master Thomas Morton, Archd. in cos. of Devon, Cornwall, and Gloucester.
19. Master William Shelley, Archd. in co. of Sussex. To him succeeded Mr. Lane.
20. Master Anthony Teuchnor, Archd. in cos. of Oxford and Berks.
21. Master John Merricke, Archd. in cos. of Shropshire and Worcester. To him succeeded Mr. Hyde.
22. Master Thomas Mauger, Archd. in the cos. of Somerset and Dorset.
23. Master Thomas Worthington, Archd. in the counties of Nottingham and Darbie.'

'The New Division of the Provinces, of the Vicaries and of the Archdeacons, contained in every one of the Vicarships.

I. The first Vicarship contains 7 counties or provinces, viz. Cornwall, Devonshire, Somersetshire, Dorsetshire, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, and it hath under it three Archdeaconries: 1. Cornwall and Devon. 2. Somerset and Dorset. 3. Wilts., Gloucr., and Hants.

II. The 2nd V. contains 7 counties, Middlesex with City of London and Westminster, Kent, Sussex, Surrey, Barks., Essex, and Harts., and it hath four Archdeaconries, 1. London and Middlesex. 2. Surrey and Barks. 3. Kent and Sussex. 4. Essex and Harts.

III. The 3rd Vic. contains 5 counties, Bedford, Hunts., Cambridge with Isle of Ely and part of the province of Lincolnshire which is called Holland and Norfolk and out of that part which is called Marshland

and Suffolk; and it hath three Archdeaconries; 1. Bedford and Hunts. 2. Suffolk and Norfolk. 3. Cambridge with Ely Marshland and Holland.

IV. The 4th Vic. contains 8 counties, Oxford, Bucks., Northants, Leicester, Stafford, Warwick, Worcester, and Chester, and hath 4 Archdeaconries. 1. Oxford, Bucks. 2. Northants and Leicester. 3. Worcester and Warwick. 4. Stafford and Chester.

V. The 5th Vic. contains 15 counties, viz. N. Wales, S. Wales, with Anglesea, Hereford, and Shropshire and it hath three Archdeaconries. 1. N. Wales with Anglesea, Montgomerie, Denbigh, Flint, Carnarvon. 2. Monmouth, Glamorgan, Radnor, Cardigan, Carmarthen, and Pembroke. 3. Hereford and Shropshire.

VI. The 6th Vicar. contains 5 counties, viz. 1. Yorkshire; 2. Darby and Nottingham; 3. Lincoln and Rutland.

VII. The 7th Vicar. contains 5 counties: Lancashire, Westmoreland, Cumberland, Northumberland, and the Bishoprick of Durham, and it hath three Archdeaconries. 1. Lancashire; 2. Westmoreland and Cumb.; 3. Northb. and Durham.

According to the present Division there are 7 Vicarships and 23 Archdeaconries, viz. two more than there were heretofore ordained. That if it doth not seem good to multiply the number of the Archdeacons the present division may be so ordained that Cheshire and Staffordshire shall be taken from the 4th Vicarship and the Archdeanery (*sic*) of Worcester and Warwickshire shall be added thereunto and Cheshire shall be joined to the Archdeanery (*sic*) of N. Wales or Lancashire and so shall belong to the 5th or 7th Vicarship.

A Committee of Parliament sitting at Rochester intercepted the foresaid Catalogue and divers other letters and papers herewith printed, as they were carrying to the Bishop of Chalcedon, for the nominating such persons to fill up vacant places in England as his Lordship shall think fit.

The 4th Vicar of Oxford and Bucks. elect, which was Dr. Bosvile; the priests living in these counties, Master Button already Archd. of Stafford and Chester, Master Barlo, Mr. Bruerton, Mr. Venables, Mr. Lawrence, Master Suttlo, Mr. Turberville, Master Jennings, Master Humphrey Hattle, Mr. William Ellis. These are in Worcester, Warwick, Stafford, Cheshire; in Northants and Leicester are Mr. Faulconer, Mr. Cheeke, Mr. Edward Hughes. Oxford and Bucks. are the counties perhaps most fit for this Vicars district, and he is Archdeacon.'

So far The Pope's Brief.

In our Introductory Chapter, p. 10, we alluded to the proposed creation of an Archdeaconry in 1649, this was done and the *Chapter Records* give us the list of the members:—

1649. 'The list of the Vicar-generals and Archdeacons. Mr. Richard Maurice *alias* Page, Archdeacon of Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and Berks. He died 21st July, 1653.'

1656. The Secretary notes: 'To write to Mr. John Rigby to be Archdeacon of Oxford, Berks., and Bucks.' Again in the same year, 'To write to Dr. Jennyns to accept the Archdeaconry of Oxford, Bucks., and Berks.' In the general Assembly of the Chapter, 1657, 'Whether Mr. Michael Jennyns, Dr. of Divinity, should be made Archdeacon of Bucks., Oxford, and Berks. Resolved unanimously, Yes.'

Upon the death of Dr. Richard Smith, 1655, there was no Bishop until 1685; during these thirty years English Catholics were dependent upon Irish or Continental Bishops for the rites peculiar to the Episcopate.

The *Chapter Records* go on:—

1661. 'Mr. Henry Turberville *alias* Bonville was appointed Archdeacon of Oxford, Berks., Bucks., and continued so until his death Feb. 20th, 1677-8.' The appointment became merely honorary after the installation of the new Bishop, Dr. Leyburne, in 1685.

In 1687 during the summer months the King forced upon the Fellows of Magdalen College q. v. his arbitrary mandate ordering them to admit Roman Catholic Fellows and depriving the old Fellows of their rights, and finishing by installing Dr. Bonaventure Giffard in the President's chair. Of this Dr. Leyburne emphatically disapproved, and he told the King boldly 'that the Fellowes and Students had been grievously wronged by the appointment of Giffard as President, and that restitution ought to be made to them on religious as well as political grounds¹.'

The next year, January, 1688, James II proposed to the Pope to erect additional Vicariates in England, and in pursuance of this demand the four Vicariates were founded and our county was definitely separated from the sister trinity of Oxon., Bucks., and Berks., and incorporated with fourteen others under the title of the Midland District. Dr. Leyburne became Bishop of the London District, while Dr. Giffard was made first Bishop of the Midland, which he ruled until his removal in 1703 to the London District.

The *Chapter Records* mention in 1684 that the appointment to the Archdeaconry was vacant; in 1694 Mr. William Reynolds was appointed, 'who died in Oxford²'; he died and was buried at Souldern (q. v.), 1717-18. We only find the names of two secular priests in this county in 1702, viz. Reynolds aforesaid and Mr. Francis Holdenby.

In 1732 Mr. Christopher Pigott was Archdeacon, and from 1736 to 1760 Dr. George Kendall, uncle to the Revs. Hugh and Richard Kendall (see *Gillow*). From this time forward the accounts of the various Missions furnish their own lists.

In 1840 the four Vicariates were dissolved and eight new ones established, under which Oxford was reckoned with seven other counties, as in the Central District. In 1850 the re-establishment of the Hierarchy placed it finally, with three others, under the Bishop of Birmingham.

¹ Mazière Brady, vol. iii, p. 142.

² He was one of the Cassington family (q. v.).

LISTS OF REGULAR CLERGY SERVING THE OXFORDSHIRE MISSION

Where it has been possible to locate a priest, the notice of his life will be found with the account of his Mission.

BENEDICTINES IN OXFORDSHIRE

The Benedictines appear never to have lost their footing in Oxfordshire. During the reign of Edward VI, A.D. 1550, Strype mentions 'those cruel beasts the Romanists with which Oxford abounds.'

Gloucester Hall, the Benedictine house in Oxford, remained open to Catholics; and in 1579 Strype reports that at Exeter College 'were found of eighty only four obedient subjects, all the rest secret or open Roman affectionaries and particularly one Savage of that house¹.' Several of these were Benedictines.

John Holyman, a Fellow of New College, joined the Benedictine Abbey of Reading. Upon the dissolution of the Abbey he received the rectory of Handborough in lieu of a pension, but most of his time was spent at Exeter College, where he resided during the reign of Edward VI. In the reign of Queen Mary he was promoted to the Bishopric of Bristol and consecrated in 1554—the first and last Bishop of that See. Dr. Holyman was at one time Vicar of Wing in Bucks. He died December 20, 1558, and, by direction of his will, was buried in the Chancel of his Church at Handborough².

In the beginning of the seventeenth century we hear of Benedictine Monks from Valladolid establishing themselves in the neighbourhood of Oxford.

1627. Dom. John Barnes, O.S.B., from Valladolid, resided privately in the University of Oxford. Removed to Paris, died in a lunatic asylum at Rome, 1661³.

'Dom. Francis Stamford, alias Ottley, e Diocensis Oxoniensi, admitted to English College, Valladolid, 1 Nov. 1602, joined Benedictines Oct. 1603⁴.'

Lewis Cook, Dom. Justus, *alias* Edner, Edney, or Rigg, was a student at the Secular College in Valladolid in the autumn of 1603 he, with several other students, left the College and joined the Benedictine house in the same place. He was elected President-General in the General Chapter in July, 1625, but declined the offer. He died suddenly in Oxfordshire on 15th April, 1635, at Temple Cowley, where, as we learn from Prynne, she had established a house⁵.

This establishment is referred to in Prynne's book as an example of the

¹ Boase's *Exeter College*, O. H. S., p. lxxx; Dr. Lee's *Edward VI*, p. 229, note.

² *Gillow's Dict.*

³ See *Gillow's Dict.*

⁴ Contributed by Dom. G. Dolan.

⁵ See Will. Prynne's *Popish Royall Favourite*, p. 64.

audacity of Catholics as fostered by the Queen. 'Amsterdam: 1634, Lewis Cook, the General of the Benedictines¹, dying without issue at Temple Cowley in Oxon., where he had purchased divers lands and goods, his brother, a Civilian in Ireland, hearing of it comes over and claims his lands as heir, his goods as administrator to him: the Benedictines withstood his claims to both, alledging that he purchased both goods and lands with the money of the Order for their use and maintenance only; and by Sir William Howard and their Court friends there made such a strong party against the heir that despairing of his own right he made his addresses to Sir John Banks, the King's Attorney, and procured a Commission of enquiry with a Fiat under his hand, dated 2d Jan. 1635, to entitle the King to the lands and goods, as a mortmaine purchased to the use of the Monks; whereupon they compounded with the heir and gave him £300, as I am credibly informed by Mr. Barnard who drew the Commission, whereupon it proceeded no further.'

Father Justus is mentioned in Weldon's *Notes* and his sudden death by Wood (MSS., B 6). Also the same year 'died on 10th June in Oxfordshire Dom. Maurus Curreus, alumnus of St. Gregory's, Douay, professed there July 13th, 1614; John Curre of Sandonsee, Berks².'

'In 1636 Dom. Bennett, *alias* Edward Smith, a man of most religious conversation. He was sent to Chelles and thence to England, where he was made tutor and governor to Anthony Brown, the son and heir of Lord Montague, with whom he travelled, and lastly ended his earthly pilgrimage at Madrid, Procurator for the Congregation, July 21.' Weldon. (See Kiddington.)

Dom. Edward Wolseley, professed at St. Gregory's, Douay, 1632 (of Staffordshire); laboured in this county, perhaps since 1640, died May 11, 1669, in Oxfordshire. (*Benedictine Necrology*.)

Dom. Robert Sherwood, died at Kiddington (q. v.) in 1665.

Dom. Oswald Smithers, died at Kiddington (q. v.) in 1725.

Many of the Benedictine Fathers will be found in the various Missions where they served.

Wood (MSS., B 6): 'Benedictines. John Richardson, died 4 March, 1646. Anselm Turberville, 1645³.'

BENEDICTINES BORN IN OXFORDSHIRE, FROM THE *Necrology*.

Dom. Gregory Hayward, b. 1602, died 1632.

Dom. Basil Cheriton, died 1662.

Dom. Mathew Cheriton, died 1670.

Dom. Francis Mildmay, died 1720.

Dom. Baptist Savory, died 1726.

¹ This designation is a mistake. There was no such thing as a General of the Benedictines.

² A tithing in the parish of Hunger-

ford.

³ This is in a list of deaths at the end of a book belonging, I think, to Dom. Vincent.

Dom. Gregory Greenwood, died 1744.

Dom. Maurus Blount, died 1746.

Dom. Edward Pigott, died 1749.

FRANCISCANS IN OXFORDSHIRE

Several Franciscan friars still continued to linger round the precincts of their old house and church in Oxford, and ministered in secret to the faithful around. Of these were Father John Nicholas Day, O.S.F., a native of Oxford, who was born at Holywell Mill. At the first Chapter of the restored Province, held at Brussels in December, 1630, he was designated as Preacher and Lector of Divinity. He died in Oxford in 1658, and was buried near the font in St. Ebbe's Church¹.

From the annals of the second Province of the Franciscans in England we learn all that can be gleaned of their labours in Oxfordshire. From this source we find that Fathers of this Province were stationed at various times at Mapledurham, Tusmore, Warkworth, which includes the Banbury district, and in Berkshire at Mr. Young's of Whatcomb, and at Hendred, which Fathers in all probability extended their labours across the border into our county; also at Britwell several Fathers succeeded each other as Chaplains to the Poor Clares during their residence there.

In addition there is every probability that the congregation at North Aston was served by Franciscan friars².

Father Bullaker, O.S.F., who was taken on the 11th of September, 1642, in London, at the house of Mrs. Margaret Powell, was betrayed by a servant-maid of Mrs. Powell's, and taken in his vestments in the act of beginning Mass. Margaret Powell was also tried for harbouring the priest, and imprisoned and condemned to death, but after several reprieves she was eventually set free while actually upon the hurdle, and retired to Oxford, where she lived in great edification. Whether she belonged to the Sandford family or not there is no evidence to show. She had a son about twelve years of age at this time, an only child. Her husband was a Protestant, but the son was brought up Catholic and educated abroad in the family of the Duchesse d'Epemon³.

'Margaret Powell convicted of harbouring priests, 17 Dec. 1642⁴.'

Statuta Fratrum Minorum Recollectorum almae Provinciae Angliae pro Missione. Londini. Ex Typographia Joan Hoyles, 1747⁵.

p. 18, § II, De Guardianorum Districtibus.

'Sub Districtu Guardiani Londiniensi continentur Middlesexia, Sussexia, Wintonia (seu Southamptonia), Wiltonia & Harfordia.

¹ See *Athenae*, ed. Bliss, vol. iii, p. 1221.

² See *The Franciscans in England*, 1600-1852, by Father Thaddeus, O.S.F., Chilworth, 1898.

³ See Miss Stone's *Faithful unto*

Death, under the notice of Father Bullaker.

⁴ *5th Report Hist. MSS.*, p. 109.

⁵ This little rare book was lent to me by Father Thaddeus, O.S.F., Greyfriars, Chilworth, Surrey. June, 1895.

Sub Districtu Eboracensi continentur Comitatus Eboracensis, Lincolniensis, Lancastriensis, & Rutlandiensis.

Sub Districtu Cantabrigiensi continentur Cantabrigia, Norfolcia, Suffolcia, Essexia, Huntingtonia & Insula Eliensis.

Sub Districtu Bristolensi, comitatus Somercestriae, Glocestriae, Herefordiae, Dorcestriae, Devoniae, Cornubiae & Cambriae australis.

Sub Districtu Oxoniensi, comitatus Oxoniae, Bercheriae, Bedfordiae, Northamptoniae, Leicestriae, Nottinghamiae, Derbiae, & Buckinghamiae.

Sub Districtu Novicastrensi, Comitatus Northumbriae, Westmorelandiae, Comberlandiae, Dunelmiae et Richmundiae.

Sub Districtu Wigorniensi, comitatus Wigorniae, Salopiae, Cestriae, Staffordiae & Cambriae borealis.

Greenwich as being the first convent of strict observances in England is exempt from the jurisdiction of the Guardians of London.

Canterbury Guardianship has been restored and Kent and Surrey are under it, 1662.

In 1668 the Guardianship of Coventry was restored and all Warwickshire placed under it.

In 1675 By petition of Duke of Norfolk the Guardianship of Norfolk restored and eleven missions.

The seals of the Guardianship.

Oxonii, B. Agnelli vel Angeli. Titular.'

TITULAR GUARDIANS OF OXFORD.

It does not follow that the Titular Guardians all lived in the County. Some of them did serve here and others lived in other places.

1640. Venerable John Baptist a S. Bonaventura (Thomas) Bullaker.
Martyred at Tyburn, 1642.

A break in the records until

1647. Lawrence a Edmundo, probably Edmonds.

1648. Lewis a Nazareth.

1650. Laurence a Edmundo, as above.

1651. Philip Gray a S. Clara, died in 1696.

1653-56. Bernardine Wood a S. Anna, died in England, 1666.

1656-59. Lawrence as above, died in England, c. 1671.

1659-62. Peter of Alcantara Matthews, died at Douai, 1676.

1662-65. John Garter a S. Maria, died in London, 1675.

1665-68. Daniel Clay a S. Francisco, died in 1681.

1668-71. George Golding a S. Barbara, died in 1701.

1671-74. Francis Napier or Napper, a S. Anna, died in England, 1680.

1674-77. Augustine Hill a S. Monica.

1677-80. Angelus Bixe, died in England, 1695.

1680-83. Thomas Benson a S. Anna.

1683-86. Augustine Hill, as above.

- 1686-89. Samuel Clark a S. Henrico.
 1689-92. Augustine Hill, as above, died 1704.
 1692-95. Samuel Clark, as above.
 1695-98. Anthony le Grand a S. Josephs, died 1699.
 1698-1701. Samuel Clark, as above, died in 1707, probably at Tusmore.
 1701-1704. Thomas Benson, as above, died 1705.
 1704-1707. Anthony Young a S. Francisco, died on English Mission,
 1712-13.
 1707-1710. Anthony Lambert, died on the Mission, 1714.
 1710-1713. Anthony Parkinson, died in England, 1728.
 1713-1716. Jerome Winter.
 1716-1719. Gregory Jackson.
 1719-1722. Jerome Winter, as above.
 1722. George Scudamore, died 1723.
 1723. Jerome Winter, as above, died 1742.
 1723-1728. Bernadine Smith, died at Douai, 1742.
 1728-1731. Gregory Jackson, as above, died at Douai, 1732.
 1731. Francis Dodd.
 1732. John Baptist Gibson, died at Douai, 1757.
 1733. Lewis De Lean, died at Douai, 1757-8.
 1734-37. Francis Dodd, as above.
 1737-40. Thomas Holmes, died 1772-3.
 1740-43. Francis Dodd, as above, died in England, 1747.
 1743. Gregory Martin.
 1744. Jerome Fleming, died in England, 1750.
 1746-49. Gregory Martin, as above.
 1749. Felix Englefield, died at Douai, 1767.
 1750-1753. Jerome Beveridge, died at Douai, 1765.
 1753. Gregory Martin, as above.
 1755-1758. Bromo Babe, alias Price, died in England, 1783-4.
 1758-1761. Gregory Martin, as above, died at Douai, 1773.
 1761-1764. Joseph Needham.
 1764-1767. Anselm Copley (Charles), died at Douai, 1777-8.
 1767-1770. Joseph Needham, as above.
 1770-1773. Angelus Ravenhill, died in England, c. 1792.
 1773-1776. Joseph Needham, as above, died in London, 1791.
 1776-1779. Edward Madew, died in England, 1782.
 1779. Henry Waring (John).
 1781. John Evangelist Anderton, died before 1800.
 1782-1785. Thomas Cottrell, died 1816-17.
 1785. James Rogerson.
 1787. Leo Pilling (William), died 1801.
 1788. James Rogerson, as above, died in England, 1790.
 1790. Athanasius Baynham, died 1802-3.
 1794. Bernadine Collingridge (Peter), died at Cannington, 1829
 (Bishop).
 1799.

- 1800. Anselm Millward.
- 1803. Francis McDonnell (Charles), died in 1842.
- 1805. Joseph Tate, died 1815.
- 1806. Pacificus Kington (Thomas).
- 1808. Henry Waring, as above, died 1816-17.
- 1812. Anselm Millward, as above, died 1813.
- 1814. Bernadine Fleet, died 1815.
- 1815. Anthony Sumner (Richard), died at Coxside, Plymouth, July, 1822.
- 1817. Leo Sumner (James), Twin with above, died at Taunton, July, 1822.
- 1818. Pacificus Kington, as above.
- 1820. Francis Hendren (Joseph William) (Bishop), died at Taunton, 1866.
- 1821. Constantius Henrion, died 1824.
- 1823-26. Leo Edgeworth (Francis), died at Antwerp, 1850.
- 1826. Pacificus Kington, as above, died 1827.
- 1827. Bernadine Davison (John), died at Newport, S.W., 1842.
- 1832-35. Anselm Millward (James), not the same as above, died at Wappenbury, 1868.

CARMELITES IN OXFORDSHIRE

After the general dissolution of the Monasteries it was many years before the Carmelite Order was restored in England.

By a direct inspiration from Heaven an Englishman named Thomas Doughty, who had been banished the country for Religion's sake, conceived the idea of giving his life to the Mission in England. He was then a student at the English College in Rome, but following what he looked upon as his direct call, he joined the Carmelites under the name of Father Simon Stock. At that time the Order had no Mission in England, but by F. Simon's persuasion the General Council, held in 1614, agreed to found one, and sent him, accompanied by a single lay brother to begin it. They set out in April, 1615, and having suffered imprisonment on the way, arrived, only to remain a few months. Returning to the continent under stress of adverse circumstances he was, however, able to return, and spent a laborious missionary life, chiefly in Kent and in London, for forty years. From this time a thin but unceasing stream of Carmelite missionaries found their way to England, to receive ungrudging hospitality, and find abounding fields of labour among their co-religionists.

We are able to localize only a very few names among these as either living or working in Oxfordshire.

Father Francis of the Saints, by birth Christopher Leigh, spent some ten years in the county. He is mentioned in 1633 as being about thirty miles from London, apparently without a domicile, as the writer of the letter says, 'There are so many priests in this country that it is not an easy task

to find shelter for them,' but shelter was found for Father Francis with Sir Peter Browne at Kiddington. Here he remained for some years, dying in London in 1641 (see Kiddington). About the same time Father Bede Travers received into the Church Sir William Russell, the son-in-law of Sir William Spencer, of Yarnton (see Yarnton).

One Carmelite Father in 1688 'lived in or near Oxford.' In 1731 Father Richard, of St. Edward, born Edward Shaw, held a chaplaincy in Oxfordshire; in 1741 he is mentioned as living at Blackmore Park, co. Worcester¹.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century Father John Clarkson served a Chaplaincy for many years, dying in 1823, and with him perished all the Archives of the English Province. The interest of his name being connected with Oxfordshire lies in the probability (or possibility) of his having been for a short time at Tusmore (q. v.) about 1809.

DOMINICANS CONNECTED WITH OXFORD

'In 1709 Father Thomas Worthington, O.P., created titular Priors in England. Russel for Oxford, &c., &c.

In 1745 were made 12 titular Priors. Father Joseph Greene, O.P., Oxford.

In 1750 were made 12 titular Priors. Father James Moran (Irish), Oxford².'

There does not appear to be any record of these three having been in the county, but the record deserves to be perpetuated.

LIST OF JESUIT FATHERS WHO HAVE SERVED THE OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT

We find Jesuits here from the earliest time of their coming into England. In 1581 the Rev. Mr. Filbie and Father Campion suffered at Tyburn after their arrest upon this Mission. Mr. Filbie was a secular priest who is mentioned with Father John Hart, S.J., as being entertained by Mr. Borne, of Chesterton. Father Hart was probably a native of Eynsham; he was arrested at Lyford with Mr. Filbie and Father Campion and they were sent up prisoners to London. Filbie and Campion were executed together, while Father Hart was reprieved upon the very day fixed for his death. During his imprisonment in the Tower he had joined the Society of Jesus; being sent abroad upon his release, he died in Poland in 1594³.

1598. About this year Fathers Young and Greaves, S.J., were working

¹ Taken from *Carmel in England*, by Father B. Zimmermann, O.C.D., 1899.

² From *Under the Penal Laws*, by Father Raymond Palmer, O.P., in *Merry*

England, Nov., 1888, and Dec.

³ See Challoner's *Missionary Priests*; Foley's *Records, S.J.*; Oliver's *Bio-graphy of S.J.*

here. The Rev. Edmund Smith, born at Crowmarsh, attributes his conversion to them¹. A Father Thompson is also mentioned.

The chief interest among these early names attaches to Father William Lacey, *alias* or *vere* Wolfe.

For wellnigh half a century Father Lacey was a well-known character in Oxford, and so highly were his learning and his humble conversation respected that he passed through the vicissitudes and troubles of the times, retaining the love and esteem of all. Wood tells us that Father Lacey was born at Scarborough in 1584. His father was a leather merchant, and his mother, whose maiden name is not mentioned, belonged to a better class in society, of a family almost extinct. There was one other brother and several sisters, all Protestants, but there was an uncle who by his own exertions had raised himself to a better position and was a clerk in Chancery. An uncle—whether Catholic or not does not appear—sent the boy to Oxford, where he entered at Magdalen Hall in 1600. From Foley² we learn that he was converted to the Catholic Faith by a secular priest named Doulton, *alias* Morgueen³, and by him sent to the Jesuits. *The Diary of the English College at Rome* tells us that he was admitted among its alumni in 1608, took the College oaths on 10th August, 1609, and received Minor Orders, but left for the Society of Jesus at Nancy in 1611. His life in this College was void of offence to all, and after about fourteen years employed at St. Omer teaching philosophy, he was professed in 1637. He soon returned to England, and took up his residence in Oxford, where he lived for the whole of his missionary life.

Near Eastgate there dwelt two poor women, sisters, somewhere in the fields where the Botanical Gardens are now; they were named Mary and Joan Meakyns; they were Catholics, and devoted their lives to works of charity and religion. With these worthy people Father Lacey lived; his food was coarse, his drink a penny a gallon, his bed under the thatching, and the way to it up a ladder. When God was pleased to take the sisters to Himself, Father Wolfe went to live with another Catholic who kept the Dolphin Inn in Magdalen Parish.

At length after living to be twice a child, he died at the 'Dolphin'⁴, on July 17, 1673, aet. 89, and two days after his body was taken to Somerton and buried in the Fermor Chapel there⁵.

In *Athenae*, under 'Chillingworth,' we read:—'William Lacey, who wrote the "Judgment of a University Man" on Chillingworth's book, was very likely F. Wolfe.'

1603. Names of Jesuits in England. (*State Papers Domestic*, James I, vol. vii, n. 50.) 'Mr. Oven with the Lady Clerk in Oxfordshire.' Probably Owen, see North Weston.

¹ Foley, vol. vii, p. 607.

² Vol. vi, p. 250.

³ Probably Morgan.

⁴ Where now stands No. 1 St. Giles's;
at the back of the modern house is still

to be seen part of the old inn of the style of that day, with black and white timbers.

⁵ See Wood's *Athenae*, ed. Bliss.

1621. F. Thomas Lister, *alias* Butler. Superior. (Foley, vol. vii, and Oliver.)

1625. F. John Sweet, from Devonshire. In prison from Nov. 1621, at Exeter until 1625; was in this district in 1625. Died at St. Omer, Feb. 26, 1632. (Foley and Oliver.)

1631. F. Charles Waldegrave, *alias* Flower of Essex, in Oxfordshire this year. He died in England Dec. 23, 1655, aged 36. (Foley.)

1632. Died this year, aged 57, F. William Flexney or Flaxen, a native of Oxford, born 1575, belonging to a well-known city family of St. Michael's Parish. Entered the Society about 1611; known at Douay as Will. Johnson. (Foley, vol. vii.)

1632. F. John Mannock, *alias* Browne, was in the district this year. (Foley, vol. vii.)

1633 and seq. F. Richard Whitmoor, *alias* Moore. (Foley, vol. vii.) Perhaps the same as Wigmoor, died in England, 1649. (Oliver.)

1636. F. Giles Poulton, *alias* Palmer, born in Northants in 1600-1, served this Mission this year. Died in England, Nov. 20, 1666, aged 65. (Foley, vol. vii, p. 607.)

1638. F. Edward Mainwaring, *alias* Latham. Missioner in this district. Died at Oxford, after an interval spent in other parts, 'suddenly without speaking a word,' July 12, 1667, aged 64. He was from Lancashire. (Foley.)

1639. F. Francis Rogers, of Norfolk. Died in England, 1660, aged 62. (Foley and Oliver.)

1639. F. Henry Wilkinson. (Is not this Williamson?), of Northants; was in Oxford before this year. (Foley, vol. vii.)

1641. This year died F. John Fisher, *alias* Percy, the celebrated controversialist; he frequently lived with the Countess of Buckingham: 'Mr. Fisher, *alias* Joanes, a jesuit living with the Countess of Bucks, A. D. circa 1628.' Foley (vol. vii, p. 585) says that John Fisher, the controversialist, was not the same as mentioned below in 1618, but appears to be the same as 'Joanes.' One of these two was son of John Percy and Cecilia Lawson, and was born at Holmside, Durham, 1568-9. A probable younger brother of this latter Father was 'Roger Wivell, *vere* William Percy, son of Thomas Percy, of Ryton (three miles from Malton); mother a Wivell, connected with the Plowdens of Shiplake. He died, aged twenty, at the English College, Rome, October 1620.' Upon entering the Society he described himself: '1618. My true name is Percie, my chief relations on my father's side are Richard Ffarmer of Somerton, Oxon., Francis Plowden of Shiplake, William Winchcombe of Noke; he lived principally with Richard Ffarmer,' who died in 1642. His close connexion with our county makes his name of interest here ¹.

1641. F. Edward Knott, *vere* Mathew Wilson. 'Did he not sometimes go by the name of Nicholas Smith?' (*Athenae*, ed. Bliss, vol. ii, p. 40.)

¹ See Foley, vols. i, iv, vi; *Athenae*, *State Papers Domestic*, 1625 to 1649, ed. Bliss, for the Controversialist; and p. 314.

1642. F. Edmund Sale, jun., *alias* Neville, perhaps of the family of Scarisbrick, of Lancashire, here this year. Died in London, in prison, 8th July, 1643. (Foley, vol. iv.)

1642. F. George Coniers, of Yorkshire, born 1575. Served here this year; died in Yorkshire, 1682, aged 77. (Foley, vol. vii.)

1642. F. Michael Jennison, *alias* Gray. In this district this year, and died here in 1648, aged 45. (Foley, vol. vii.)

1643. F. Richard Jennings, born in Essex, 1612. Serving here this year and died same year. (Foley, vol. vii.)

1644. Two Fathers Turner, natives of Oxfordshire. The elder, Francis, was here about this time. Died 1659, aged 45. The younger, John, died at Antwerp, 1681, aged 78. (Foley, vol. vii, and Oliver.)

c. **1644.** F. William Wigmore, *alias* Campian. See Whitmoor. (Foley, vol. vii.)

1645. F. George Ward, *alias* Ingleby, *alias* Vernon, brother to Mrs. Mary Ward, foundress of the 'English Ladies.' Born in Yorkshire; was in Oxford this year. Chaplain to the Countess of Newport¹, and died in England, 1654. (Foley and Oliver.)

1645. F. Alexander Fairclough, *alias* Pelham. Superior here in 1642. In 1621 he was chaplain to a noble family, and Superior of the Oxford district, in which he died Aug 4, 1645, aged 70. (Foley, vol. iv.)

1645. F. John Robinson. (Foley, vol. vii.)

1647. F. Francis Metham, *alias* Iberies, from Yorkshire. Lived many years in Spain, where he took the name of Iberies. In 1647 he was in this district, where he died, April 7, 1681. (Foley, vol. vii.)

1647. F. Anthony Greenway. (Foley, vol. ii.)

1648. F. Lawrence Worsley, from Somerset, served this district 1648 to 1652. Died in Yorkshire, 1675. (Foley, vol. vii, and Oliver.)

1649. F. Richard Whiteley, here this year. Died in London, Feb. 13, 1651. (Foley, vol. vii, and Oliver.)

1649. F. John Grimston, *alias* Lane, co. Oxon, died Sept. 27, 1649, aged 73. (Oliver.)

1650. F. Joseph Giffard, *alias* Walker. Born in Staffordshire. Served the Oxford district a short time about this year. Died 1673, aged 53. (Foley, vol. vii.)

1652. F. John Gardiner, served here and died this year. (Foley, vol. vii.)

1652. Thomas Horne, of Oxford; died at Watten, Feb. 14, 1652, aged 50. (Oliver.)

1655. F. Thomas Rand, native of Oxfordshire. Born 1575, Missioner here in 1655, died 1657, aged 82. (Foley, vol. iv, and Oliver.)

1655. F. William Gage, Superior of the Oxford district this year. He was son of John Gage, of Haling, and brother to Sir Henry Gage, the Governor of Oxford, who was killed at Culham Bridge in 1644; another

¹ Anne Butler, d. of Lord Butler of Newport married, secondly, Thomas Bramfield, wife of Blount, Lord Mount- Weston, Earl of Portland. *Burke's* joy and Newport. The Countess of *Extinct Peerages.*

brother was the Rev. George Gage, and a third the unfortunate apostate, Thomas Gage. F. William Gage died in the district in 1683, aged 84. (Foley, vols. i-vii.)

1655. F. Thomas Whitfield, born in Durham, was here this year. He died May 10, 1686, probably in Devonshire. (Foley, vol. vii.)

1655. F. Charles Poulton, brother to Father Giles Poulton, *alias* Palmer, *alias* Roberts. F. Charles served this Mission this year. He was the first Rector of the Savoy College in London, 1687. At the flight of the King he fled from the mob, was apprehended at Faversham, imprisoned, and taken to Newgate, where he died Feb. 7, 1690, aged 74. (Foley, vol. vii.) In the *Verney Family Papers* (edited by Lady Verney, vol. iv, p. 426) appears this notice: 'At the same time it is rumoured on the death of the great Head-Master of Westminster, Dr. Busby, that one Poulton, a Jesuit, who was Schoolmaster at the Savoy, is to succeed him.'

1655. F. Martin Grene, son of — Grene and Jane Tempest, was on the Oxfordshire Mission this year. Died Rector at Watten, Flanders, Oct. 2, 1667. (Foley, vol. vii, and Oliver.)

1660. F. Guy or George Holland, *alias* Holt, once Superior here. Died Oct. 26, 1660, aged 73. From Lincolnshire. (Foley, vol. vii, and Oliver.)

1665. F. George Smith here this year. He was born in Durham; after serving the Mission thirty years, he died Oct. 18, 1671. (Foley and Oliver.)

1670. F. Joseph Richardson, from Warwickshire, serving this Mission about the year 1665; he died in the 'Residence,' Dec. 17, 1670, aged 64. For the account of a vision after death, see Oliver. (Foley, vol. vii.)

1670. F. John Nelson, of Oxfordshire, after passing forty years on the Mission and eighteen in the Society of Jesus, died in England, Nov. 3, 1670, aged 77. (Oliver.)

1671-2. F. John Bruerton, *alias* Alanson, from Shropshire, admitted to the Society of Jesus, 1651, aged 18, in Oxfordshire at this time. (Foley, vol. ii, and Oliver.)

1672. F. Francis FitzHerbert, *alias* Darby, from Derbyshire, sent to the Oxford district this year. He went to the Maryland Mission and died at St. Omer, May 22, 1687, aged 74. (Foley, vol. vii, and Oliver.)

1675. F. Thomas Jenison, from Durham. Sent this year to the Oxford district. Died in prison at Newgate in consequence of Oates's Plot, Sept. 27, 1679, aged 36. (Foley, vol. vii, and Oliver.)

1676. F. Henry Gascoigne, native of Bucks., died in this 'Residence' on Sept. 3, this year, aged 81, 'suddenly without any previous illness, at an inn kept by a Catholic, to whose family he had, according to his custom, been administering the rites of the Church and affording religious consolation. (Foley, vol. vii, p. 596.)

1683. The Fathers John and George Lovell, relations, natives of Oxfordshire, but Oliver says of Norfolk; John was for some years Superior here. For details concerning him see our 'General Chapter.' He died in Oxford, Oct. 11, 1683, aged 78. F. George Lovell died in England on Dec. 12, 1720, aged 70. (Foley, vol. vii, and Oliver.)

The following curious reference to F. John Lovell occurs in *State Papers*:—‘Information of one Lovell, a Jesuit, that intercepted £40,000 (*sic*) worth of the King’s jewels. A Jesuit in Oxford that goes by the name of Lovell and lyes at a widowes house in Oxford, whose name is thought to be Brookes, is accused to have embezzled to the value of £40,000 worth of the King’s jewelles by one Mrs. Curzon, now a prisoner in Newgate.’

‘Committal of Mrs. Curzon to Newgate upon the oath of two witnesses, of having received a great sum of gold, more than would fill a hatt, and divers jewelless belonging to the Queene, and to have purloined the same about the year 1646.’

‘Sept. 21. Statement that Frances Curzon is committed for treason, having received a hatful of gold and divers jewels &c. of the Queen’s in 1646, and keeping them concealed since the Restoration.’

‘Sept. 21. Note that Mrs. Curzon, now prisoner in Newgate, accuses Lovell a Jesuit, now in Oxford, of having embezzled £40,000 worth of the King’s jewels.’ (This is probably apocryphal¹.)

1685. F. Francis Wolfe, of Bucks., was here this year. Died March 2, 1720, aged 73. (Foley and Oliver.)

1685. F. Lambert Boelman, a Fleming, on the Oxford Mission this year. He died in London, 1690. (Foley.)

1687. F. Edward Umberstone or Humberstone entered the Society of Jesus under the name of Hall. Chaplain to Obadiah Walker at University College. His brother Henry, S.J., *alias* Hall, was known as the preacher of a sermon at Worcester which caused much hot feeling in the city. F. Edward appears to have been a prominent character in Oxford during the Catholic reaction, and in common with most of the Catholics of the town was very friendly with Antony à Wood, who indeed mentions F. Edward as his friend, and says that he performed the ordinary duties of a priest in a public manner. F. E. Umberstone fled with his friends in 1688, but was unfortunately taken at Canterbury and confined in prison for a few days.

1688. Dec. 18. F. Hallis committed to Newgate, as is F. Peter’s brother and Sir Roger l’Estrange, for writing and dispersing treasonable papers².

F. Edward Umberstone finished his days in Flanders and died at Watten, Oct. 1707, aged 72.

Contemporary with the above was F. Joseph Wakeman, son to Mr. Edward Wakeman, of Beckford, Gloucestershire, and brother to Sir George Wakeman, M.D. He was closely connected with the Napiers of Holywell (q.v.). He acted as chaplain to Obadiah Walker, and often passed by the name of Edwards. He died at Watten, Flanders, Dec. 8, 1720³.

1688. At the same time Dr. Thomas Fairfax, S.J., whose *alias* was

¹ *Calendar of State Papers Domestic*, 1661–2, p. 94.

² *14th Report Hist. MSS. Com.*,

App., p. iv, MSS. of Lord Kenyon, p. 211.

³ *Athenae*, ed. Bliss, vol. iv, p. 440.

Beckett, was Fellow of Magdalen. At the outbreak of the Revolution he was violently ill-treated by the populace of Oxford and trampled under foot by the mob. He spent the latter part of his life at Wardour, and died probably there, March 2, 1716, aged 60¹.

1688. With F. Fairfax another Jesuit, F. Edward Levison or Luzon, underwent the same indignities in Oxford. He was employed upon this Mission until obliged to hide himself in 1688.

Four sons of John Leveson, of Willenhall, co. Stafford, and Isabel Langtree, of Lancashire, entered Religion. Edward and Richard became Jesuits, Francis and William Franciscans. Francis died a Confessor in prison, Feb. 11, 1680, and Edward died in England, April 13, 1720, aged 78².

A native of Oxfordshire died about this time in Rome;—Ralph Postgate, who was son of William Postgate and Johanna Mylot, both Catholics; he was born in the county, June 23, 1648. Rector of English College, Rome, 1693, where he died 1718. (Foley.)

After the disturbances accruing upon the flight of James II and the accession of William III, we find F. Henry Pelham, *alias* Warren, in Oxford. He served the Mission for several years, and died here in 1702. In the papers belonging to the old chapel occurs, among certain anniversaries, the name of 'Henry Pelham, *alias* Warren, May 27th'; from this we may infer that he was in a special manner connected with Oxford³.

1703. Died, F. John Alcock, *alias* Gage; he spent most of his long career in the 'Residence,' and died probably in the same district, 1703 or 1704, aged 52. (Foley, vol. vii, and Oliver.)

1701. Fathers serving in the Oxfordshire district during the year 1701⁴:—

John Alcock, *alias* Gage, see above.

Charles Collingwood, see Sandford.

Francis Hildersley, see Little Stoke; died in England, June 17, 1719, aged 64.

Edward Levison, see above.

John Mostyn, see Swincombe; died in England, Nov. 3, 1721.

Henry Warren, see above.

1704. Fathers serving here in 1704⁵:—

John Alcock.

C. Collingwood.

F. Hildersley.

Ed. Leveson.

Charles Crossland, died in England, March 30, 1724, aged 69.

Philip Gerard, *alias* FitzWilliam, died March 4, 1732, aged 68.

Thomas Poulton.

¹ Wood, *Life and Times*, vol. iii; Oliver.

² Foley, vol. iv; Oliver; *Gillow's Dictionary*; Payne's *Records*, p. 112; *Franciscans in England*.

³ Foley, vol. vii; Oliver; Chapel papers.

⁴ Foley, *Records*, vol. v, p. 949.

⁵ Foley, u.s.

F. Thomas Poulton, S.J., born in Northants June 21, 1668, of the same family as the two mentioned above. In 1696 he was ordered to the Persian Mission, but was recalled on the journey. From 1701 until about 1724 he served as missionary in the Oxford district, and died at Ghent, April 1, 1725, aged 57. (Foley, vol. vii.)

1709-10. F. Francis Rockley, *alias* Ireland. (Foley, vol. vii.)

1710. Charles Pigot, a native of Oxfordshire, entered the Society of Jesus this year. Born 1690, studied at St. Omer. See Godington. (Foley.)

1724. F. Peter Ingleby, a native of Lincolnshire or Yorkshire, born July 17, 1691. Employed upon this Mission for some time. In 1724 his address was 'At Sandon, Oxfordshire, to be left at the Star, Oxford.' Can this be intended for Sandford? an idea favoured by the entry in the Catholic Register of Waterperry, 'Mr. Peter Ingleby died 2nd June, 1741.' Oliver, in *Biog. S.J.*, says, 'I believe he finished his course in Lancashire¹.'

1738. F. F. Gibson, died. See Kiddington.

1765. Died, F. John Richardson, *alias* Shuttleworth, born in Lancashire. Died as Rector of this 'Residence' in 1765, aged 57, on 25th June, at Britwell House, where he had resided since 6th Aug. 1751. (See the Britwell Catholic Register.)

1765. F. James Grant, a Scotchman. In this year he was on this Mission. Died in London, May 5, 1769, aged 48. (Foley, vii. 7.)

1771. F. Andrew Robinson here. Born in Yorkshire, Aug. 1, 1741, admitted to the Society of Jesus, 1763. Served the Mission nearly sixty years, half of which time he passed at Worcester. Died there Feb. 28, 1826. (Foley, vol. vii, and Oliver.)

1773. F. Edward Baptist Newton. Born in Lincolnshire, 1721. After the suppression of the Order he was on the Oxfordshire Mission in 1773. Died at Bury St. Edmunds, April 29, 1788. (Foley and Oliver.)

1808. John or James Alloway, native of Oxfordshire, probably of Henley; died at Portico, near Prescott, buried at Windleshaw, March 15, 1808, aged 64. (Foley, vol. vii.)

MISSIONERS IN THE OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT²

										FATHERS.
1625.	F. Nicholas Hart, Superior	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	8.
1628.	F. Alex. Fairclough	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	8.
1632.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	12.
1633.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	11 Fathers and 1 Scholastic.
1634.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	11.
1636.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	13.
1639.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	12.
1641.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10.
1642-3-4.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	8, 11, 18
1645.	F. Guy Holland	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	19

¹ See Foley, vol. vii, p. 391.

² Foley, vol. vii.

	FATHERS.
1646. F. Guy Holland	14.
1647. F. Th. Plowden, <i>alias</i> Salisbury, Superior	12.
1648-9.	17, 17.
1651. F. John Lovell, Superior	15, 16.
1653. F. William Howard, Superior	13, 12.
1655.	13.
1656. F. Th. Pickford, Superior	10, 12, 13.
1659-61	11, 11, 12.
1663. F. F. Cary, Superior	13.
1667-74. F. John Lovell, Superior	14, 12, 11, 10, 10.
1675. F. Richard Rivers, Superior . . . . .	.
1679-83. F. John Lovell, Superior	7, 5, 5.
1683-93. F. H. Warren, <i>alias</i> Pelham, Superior 4, 4, 5, 6, 7, 6, 6, 6, 6, 8, 6.	
1696-1711. F. F. Hildersley, Superior 5, 7, 6, 6, 7, 6, 7, 6, 4, 7, 7, 5, 5.	
1712. F. John St. Leger, <i>alias</i> Chapman, Superior 6, 6, 5, 5, 6, 7, 6, 6.	
1733-43. F. Henry Stanley, Superior	5, 5, 6, 6, 6, 7, 6.
1743-7. F. Ignatius Brooke, Superior	6, 6, 6, 7.
1748. F. John Jackson, Superior	5, 5, 5.
1752. F. Charles Booth, Superior	5, 7, 7.
1755. F. John Richardson, Superior	6, 6, 3, 3.
1768-71. F. B. Cassidy, <i>alias</i> Stafford, Superior	4, 4, 4.

REVENUE OF ST. MARY'S, OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT¹

1628.

Income 430 scudi from alms, sufficient for eight fathers.

1636.

Income 1,000 scudi, supporting thirteen fathers.

1642.

Income 640 scudi, supports nine fathers.

1645.

St. Mary's and six others depending upon alms have no income and suffer much want.

1649-1651.

A slight amelioration.

1655-1658.

No certain income, alms.

1685.

Income 81 scudi, which, with the alms of the faithful, supported five missionaries.

¹ Foley, vol. vii, part ii, p. 971.

1690.

One of the fathers had been some time in prison, but was then at liberty on bail. (Father Thomas Fairfax.)

1693.

The four counties had six fathers and one Scholastic. Clear income was 170 scudi. Oxfordshire, Northants, Bucks., Herts.

1696.

Dioceses of Oxford, Peterborough, and Lincoln, with six fathers. It had received during the last three years 600 scudi and expended 700.

1705.

Income of 167 scudi. Six Missioners.

1711.

Six fathers. Net income 268 scudi, made up from private means to the proper sum.

1714.

Six fathers. Net income 373 scudi. Sufficient to support three, the rest living on private alms.

1723.

Income 273 scudi, supporting two. Seven fathers.

1737.

Six fathers, income as above.

1740.

Seven fathers. Income 250 scudi.

1743.

Six fathers, income 9 scudi, and a fraction.

Oxfordshire furnished 37 members of the Society of Jesus, born in the county during the whole period of the *Collectanea*.

SCHOOLS AND CONVENTS

OXFORD.

1838. The Rev. Robert Newsham opened a Preparatory School for boys at the Presbytery, St. Ignatius, in St. Clement's.

1848. He continued it at Dorchester, whither he had removed, until 1853.

1854. The Sisters of St. Joseph opened a Day and Boarding School at No. 10 Holywell Street.

1855. The same house continued by the Ursulines from No. 12 Broad Street Buildings, Moorfields, London.

1859. This Community removed to 'The Priory,' Ilfley.

1863. The same Community settled at Upton, Essex.

1875. *Feb.* 'Nazareth House' opened: first at No. 9 Stanley Road, and afterwards in Cowley Road.

1879. The Sisters of the Poor Child Jesus took 'Surbiton House,' now No. 68 Banbury Road. They began a day school, removed to No. 18 Wellington Square, and finally retired (1883) to their house at Southam, Warwickshire.

1890. The Dames of St. Ursula came from Stowmarket to No. 38 St. Giles's, and opened a Day and Boarding School.

BANBURY.

1838. Mr. and Mrs. Howell opened a Boarding School for girls in North Bar Street.

1851. The Sisters of St. Paul from Chartres opened St. John's Priory as a Boarding School. (See account of the foundress below.)

1854. A Filiation from this House settled at Radford and began the Orphanage.

THE FOUNDRESS OF ST. JOHN'S PRIORY.

'On Friday last¹, at Selly Park, near Birmingham, a venerable personage passed away. The Rev. Mother Zoile Geneviève Dupuis was the foundress in Banbury of a widespread teaching order that has done remarkable work in elementary schools during the past half-century. When St. John's School was built, Dr. Tandy's forethought looked beyond England for a teaching staff, and trained mistresses were not so well known in England as in France. Madame Dupuis, with two French Sisters, came to Banbury, and, whilst learning the English language, began to see how to adapt French technical methods of instruction to English requirements. Her special genius was to see all the needs of her adopted country in educational matters. The school gradually increased and flourished. Meanwhile she had learned the English language and made the acquaintance of every Catholic home in the neighbourhood. Her zeal was extraordinary, and no difficulty seemed insurmountable. In wintry weather she would seek out her co-religionists in the villages around Banbury. Very soon the old Priory of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem was purchased, and from that time Madame Dupuis began the training of her novices as teachers of elementary schools. In a few years the work had extended far beyond Banbury, and St. John's Priory was too small a residence for the expansion of her work. She removed to Selly Park, and from that time new branch houses were established throughout England and in Wales. At the present time some 300 of the Sisterhood are engaged in educational pursuits, many of them being certificated mistresses. Madame Dupuis remained at her

¹ September 25, 1903.

post when old age would have claimed a rest, but it is only a few weeks ago, when over ninety years of age, that she resigned that office, and was able to see a worthy successor before she was taken to her reward. Whilst in Banbury she was well known by all the inhabitants as a practical lady of business, desirous to identify herself with the town. At St. John's Church on Sunday morning the Rev. C. J. Bowen made this the subject of his discourse from the pulpit, knowing the gratitude and respect which had been handed down in the congregation for the departed Superioress¹.

'We regret to announce the death of Mother Geneviève Dupuis, foundress of the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of St. Paul the Apostle in this country, which sad event occurred on Friday, the 25th ult., at St. Paul's Convent, Selly Park, Birmingham, in her 91st year and after over seventy years in religion. Up to about a year ago this good old saintly Mother-General took a great interest in everything connected with her large Community, and was most active in everything connected with the grand Order she had established in England. In 1847 Mother Geneviève arrived in England from Chartres, France, accompanied by two other Sisters, having been invited by his late Eminence Cardinal Wiseman to take up work in this country, which she had so successfully carried on in France. Their first place to fix upon as a residence was St. John's Priory, Banbury, Oxfordshire (where there is still a branch convent and boarding school), under the direction of the late Very Rev. Dr. Tandy. In a short time the little Community grew and flourished to such an extent that the dear Rev. Mother Geneviève saw that they should remove their mother-house, and she proceeded to Birmingham to see if a place could be secured there or within its precincts. She was greatly taken with Selly Park, about three miles from Birmingham, and she secured a large plot of ground, upon which she had erected a most magnificent pile of buildings, consisting of the mother-house, chapel, infirmary, &c. The Community still grew, and now numbers not less than 500 members, not including the many in the cemetery at St. Paul's who have passed away, having done their share in the good works established by the Mother-General. When it is known that no less than fifty-two branch houses have been established in England by this holy foundress it can easily be seen what energy and life she put into her holy and excellent work in the service of the Lord. At the present time she has left convents at Hampton Wick, Hounslow, Avon Dassett, Banbury, Birmingham (3), Coleshill, Dudley, Kidderminster, Leamington, Radford, Studley, Stourbridge, Worcester, Campden, Cheltenham, Benfieldside, Brooms, Crook, Darlington, Esk, Lauder, Kendal, Maryport, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Stockton-on-Tees, Whitehaven, Wordington, Leeds, Bradford, Batley, Ripon, Wakefield, Garstang, Southport, Great Crosby, Rainhill, York, Llanarth, Cossey, Boston, Exton, Glossop, Hadfield, Howardtown, Preston, Oswestry, Holywell, and other places. This good

¹ From the *Banbury Guardian*, Oct. 1, 1903.

Mother's work was not confined to her own Community, but was extended to all in distress. Many youths, whose parents were not able to pay for their sons being educated for the priesthood, were taken in charge by Mother Geneviève and everything defrayed, so that she has the consolation that many priests are now doing God's work in this country owing to her great generosity. Many thousands of orphans were taken up by this good Mother and their future well looked after. Oh, what would many of these poor orphans have become had it not been for the noble hand of this dear Mother who was in reality a Mother to all? Even those in distress knew her, and many there are who are happy and prosperous to-day who were in their days of trouble assisted by good old Mother Geneviève, and we are sure that there are many thousands who will, upon hearing of the death of Mother Geneviève Dupuis, offer their prayers to God for the repose of her soul.—R.I.P.¹

The *Catholic Directory* for 1818 mentions the following sad end of one of our French émigré friends:—

'20th Feby. 1817. The Abbé François Longuet was murdered near Reading while returning from the house of Mr. Thomas Morton about six miles from Reading.'

M. Chanoine F. Plasse appears to refer to this incident in his book, but gives neither names nor places. There was a Mr. Morton living at Towersey about that time, but I cannot identify him.

N.B. The following names have been omitted at p. 239:—

- 1873. F. J. Morris, S.J.
- 1874. F. William Johnson, S.J.
- 1876. F. T. B. Parkinson, S.J.
- 1887. F. Walter Strappini, S.J.
- 1893. F. Charles Nicholson, S.J.
- 1897. F. Edward Field, S.J.
- 1898. F. Walter Strappini, S.J., again.
- 1903. August. F. Arthur Day, S.J.

¹ From the *Catholic Times*, Oct. 2, 1903.

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